

THE TIMES

No. 65,762

MONDAY DECEMBER 16 1996

TODAY
10P



INSIDE

REVENGE SHOPPING

The shopaholics who settle old scores with a credit card
PAGE 3

SNOW REPORTS
START TODAY
PAGE 24



14 PAGES OF TIMES SPORT

CHELSEA BLUES

Gullit's men hang their heads
PAGE 27
PLUS
Cricket: England fall to Zimbabwe
PAGE 23

TODAY
10P

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TODAY
MATTHEW PARRIS
on Monday
page 18
PLUS:
Melvyn Bragg
page 16

TOMORROW
THE TIMES PLAY TO WIN
In our £50,000 Interactive Team Football game
PLUS:
The Libby Purves column

WEDNESDAY
OBJECT OF DESIRE
Jessica Lange hits the London stage
PLUS:
Style and Nigella Lawson

THURSDAY
MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttaford
PLUS:
Geoff Brown's verdict on Madonna's *Evita*

FRIDAY
KICKING AND SCREAMING
Lynne Truss on football
PLUS:
The Valerie Grove interview

SATURDAY
QUIZ OF THE YEAR
in The Magazine
1996
PLUS WEEKEND, CAR 96, WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES, READERS AND YOUR CHRISTMAS TV AND RADIO GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

Viruses could pass to people

Epidemic fears delay transplants from pigs

By JEREMY LAURENCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE first heart transplants from pigs to people have been delayed because ministers fear they might transmit potentially deadly viruses.

Scientists have recently proved that pig viruses can grow in human cells, and there is concern that while these might be harmless to the animal, they could provoke a lethal epidemic among people. HIV almost certainly came from animals, and strains of flu that have killed millions of people in pandemics this century originated in pigs and birds.

Tens of thousands of people are awaiting organs for transplant, but fewer than half are likely to receive the treatment they need unless transplants from animals are proved safe and effective. The Cambridge-based company Imutran, which has bred a herd of genetically modified pigs whose organs are not rejected by other species, had hoped to have carried out the first operations by now, but the Government is holding back approval.

Ministers who commissioned an inquiry into the procedure — known as xenotransplantation — last January were alarmed by the implications of the resultant report and have delayed publication until the middle of next month, while they consider their response.

The inquiry, chaired by Ian Kennedy, professor of medical law and ethics at King's College, London, is understood to have concluded that the benefits of animal transplants are so great and the shortage of human donors so serious that the procedure is ethically acceptable. It was, however, concerned about the potential risk if animal viruses were transmitted to the human population.

One member of the committee said: "There is a risk of passing on infections. This may turn out to be a bigger problem than the ethical issue. There was no great groundswell of opinion against using animal organs on ethical grounds. The difficulty is trying to make sure that no nasties get through the system."

Another member of the committee said that new evidence from the Institute of Cancer Research in London that pig viruses could move to people was worrying: "We've got to be very cautious."

Research by Robin Weiss, professor of virology at the institute, has shown that pig retroviruses can grow in human cells in the laboratory. Professor Weiss, who made his unpublished evidence available to the Kennedy committee, said: "Any pigs we use for transplants would have to be screened out very carefully for known viruses. The

concern is over the unknown viruses. The recipients of the organs might be prepared to take the risk. But what happens if a virus, when transmitted, becomes a human epidemic?"

"We have shown in our experiments here that there is a pig retrovirus that can grow in human cells in culture in the laboratory. We don't know if it is harmful or if pig organs could transmit it to humans. In terms of safety, we should be wise before the event. I am not against animal transplants, but I am in favour of going forward with due caution."

In Cambridge, Imutran said that it took safety issues seriously and had devised exhaustive tests to check for pig pathogens and retroviruses, but none had posed a risk to health. Heart valves and insulin from pigs had been used in the treatment of people for decades without any apparent problems and experiments over the past 12 years had shown that hearts and kidneys could be transplanted successfully from pigs to monkeys.

If given official approval, the potential market for animal transplants is huge. The American investment bank Salomon Brothers predicted last January that there could be 455,000 organ transplants from pigs a year by 2010, compared with the 45,000 human transplants carried out around the world in 1994, creating an industry worth \$6 billion a year.

Two months later, Imutran — which was founded by the Cambridge University immunologist David White and John Wallwork, director of transplantation at Papworth Hospital — was taken over by the Swiss-based multinational drugs firm Sandoz Pharma.

Donor shortage, page 2
Leading article, page 19



"I don't believe it, I've left my donor card at home again"

Condoms issued to jail inmates

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

CONDOMS are being issued in jails in England and Wales to prevent the spread of infection, Ann Widdecombe, the prisons minister, has admitted for the first time.

Doctors have been permitted to hand out condoms discreetly to inmates who ask for them to curb the risk of disease and prevent the spread of infection among prisoners.

A circular sent to all heads of health care and governors says that they have a duty of care to reduce the risk of disease caused by sexual

activity in 135 jails in England and Wales.

Miss Widdecombe is the first government minister to admit publicly that medical officers in the prison service are permitted to dispense condoms to inmates in jails.

"Our position is very straightforward. It is within the discretion of the responsible medical officers what they prescribe, whether it is medicine, condoms or treatments or anything else in each individual case", Miss Widdecombe says in an interview for *Focus*, the magazine for community drug and alcohol initiatives. The highly controversial

move comes in spite of opposition from the Prison Governors' Association and continued confusion over the legality of homosexual acts between inmates in jails.

A policy statement from the governors' association issued in 1994 stated that it could not advocate the provision of condoms or needles in jails at this stage "as it would condone criminality within the prison". Their position on the issue has not changed.

The statement added that the association, which represents about one thousand prison governors in prisons, wanted the legal status of

Continued on page 2, col 4

American plane makers agree \$13bn merger

By MARTIN BARROW

BOEING and McDonnell Douglas, the American aircraft manufacturers, have agreed to a \$13.3 billion merger to form the world's largest aerospace company. Their move poses a major challenge to Airbus Industrie, the European consortium.

The new company will have 200,000 employees, a share of more than 30 per cent of the world's commercial airline market, and a combined order book of more than \$100 billion. Annual sales will exceed \$50 billion.

The companies said that they did not expect serious anti-trust problems.

\$13 billion merger, page 44

Protest by gold medal shooters

Three shooting gold medalists have written to *The Times* urging the Government to exempt the national squad from laws being debated by the Lords today.

More than a hundred peers have threatened to rebel over the Firearms Amendment Bill. Page 19

First World War bodies found

The remains of 25 British soldiers who died in 1917 have been discovered in a grave near Arras, northern France.

Their dog-tags may identify some of the soldiers. Tunic buttons indicate that they served with the 13th Battalion Royal Fusiliers. Page 5

England beaten

England's cricketers suffered further embarrassment on their tour of Zimbabwe when they were beaten for the third time in 15 days, losing the first one-day international by two wickets at Queen's Club in Bulawayo. Page 23

Buying The Times overseas:
Austria Sch 40; Belgium B Fr 30;
Canada Cdn \$3.50; Canada Cdn \$3.50;
Cyprus Cyp £1.20; Denmark Dkr 18.00;
Finland Fmk 17.00; France F 14.00;
Germany Dm 4.50; Gibraltar Gbp 4.50;
Greece Gr 500; Netherlands Fl 4.50;
Italy L 2.500; Luxembourg L 60;
Netherlands Esc 350; Nails 45c; Norway Nkr 27.00; Portugal Esc 350; Spain Pes 325; Sweden Skr 14.50; Switzerland S Fr 4.00; Tunisia Din 2.200; USA \$3.50.

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

Tories face defeat as Unionists reject EU fish quota

By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government was last night trying to head off a possible defeat in the Commons today after the Ulster Unionists warned that they would withdraw their support unless they won significant concessions on fishing quotas.

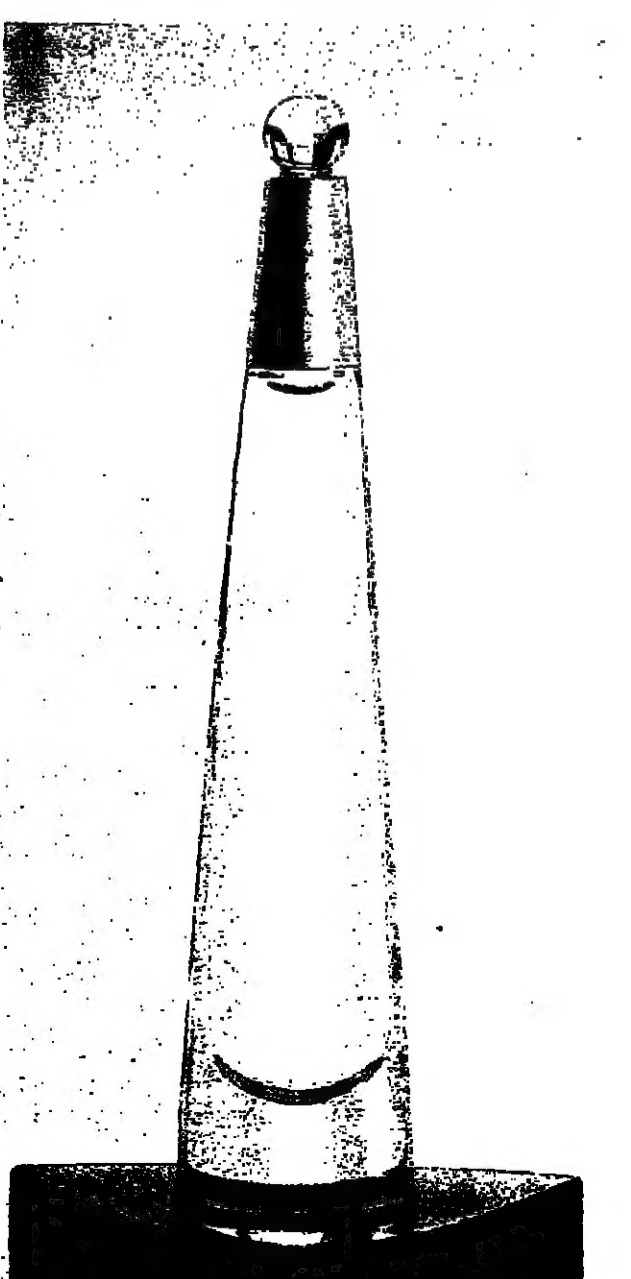
In its first test since losing its majority at the Barnsley East by-election last week, the Government is facing a close vote on the European Union fisheries policy, which it lost last year.

Tony Baldry, the fisheries minister, has spent the last few days trying to placate some of the Ulster Unionists by an undertaking that he will review the fishing quotas in the new year. He has also spoken to some of the Eurosceptic rebels who inflicted defeat on the Government last year.

But yesterday the Ulster Unionists signalled that they had not been bought off. Although David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader said his party would not act in "a capricious or irresponsible way" on key votes, it is understood that the party leaders decided over the weekend that they would defy the Government tonight. Both David Trimble, and John Taylor, his deputy, voted against last year.

The nine Ulster Unionists are expected to take a final decision when they meet before today's debate. But some ministers hope that today's statement announcing a selective cull of over 100,000 cattle will prompt a change of heart, as Unionists have been pressing for urgent steps to lift the beef ban.

Mr Trimble said he was looking for assurances over
Continued on page 2, col 6



L'EAU D'ISSEY



TV & RADIO 42, 43
WEATHER 22
CROSSWORDS 22, 44

LETTERS 19
OBITUARIES 21
RICHARD HODGES 18

ARTS 16, 17
CHESS & BRIDGE 36
COURT & SOCIAL 20

BUSINESS 38-42, 44
MIND & MATTER 12
LAW REPORT 37

Tories call for Easter election to scupper student vote

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

JOHN MAJOR is coming under strong pressure from Tory strategists to hold the general election on April 10 to prevent Labour from using the student vote to win important marginal seats.

Party strategists believe that an April 10 election would reduce the impact of Britain's one million students, who are likely to be at home for the Easter holidays in their parents' constituencies. Party strategists hope they would "waste" their votes in seats with large Tory or Labour majorities.

Officials have identified 12 marginal seats where students, who are more likely to back Labour, could out the sitting Tory MP. If the overall election result is close, they

believe these seats could help tip the balance in favour of the Government. The Prime Minister has said that the Government might have to go to the polls before his preferred date of May 1.

While Tory officials know that it is almost impossible to calculate the consequences of students voting at home, they can predict which of their marginal seats have large student populations that could tip the balance against the Tory candidate.

Several Tory MPs in these seats recognise that they secured their small majorities because the last election in 1992 was held on April 9 when many students were at home. At the same time, the Tories lost

MARGINALS

Marginal Tory seats where students could affect the vote:
 Portsmouth South
 Luton South
 Coventry South West
 Loughborough
 Brighton Pavilion
 Leeds North West
 Stirling
 Oxford West and Abingdon
 Exeter
 Southampton Test

some strongholds, such as Bath, York and Cambridge, where many students organised to use postal votes.

"There are at least 12 quite

marginal Conservative seats with very significant student populations of around 10,000," a senior Tory source said. "If we manage to have not just polling day but also most of the campaign during the holidays, we have increased our chances of holding those seats."

Tory sources said the student factor would be "a very powerful argument" for April 10. Sir Derek Spencer, the Solicitor-General, has more than 7,000 students from Brighton and Sussex Universities in his Brighton Pavilion seat (maj 3,675) and would be glad of an April election. "Undoubtedly for seats such as mine, it is better to have the election during the university vacation," he said.

One key seat is Luton South (maj 799), where the Tory vice-chair-

man, Sir Graham Bright, faces a student population of some 10,000. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, was so concerned by the impact of the student vote and boundary changes in Loughborough (maj 10,883) that he has fled to the safer seat of Charnwood. Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, faced a strong challenge from students in Stirling (maj 703) in 1992 but will have a tough fight this time around.

Other marginal seats include Coventry South West (maj 1,436); Leeds North West (maj 1,671); Oxford West and Abingdon (maj 3,539); Exeter (maj 4,045); Portsmouth South (maj 242); and Southampton Test (maj 585).

Labour strategists have recognised the possibility of an April

election and have already begun a campaign to get students to register on electoral rolls at their universities and at their parents' homes. They also know the theory could work the other way round. If the election is held during term time, many people studying in Labour strongholds such as in Manchester could use their vote more effectively at home.

To cover this possibility, Labour Students, a group of 6,000 students affiliated to the Labour Party, is running a campaign to show members how to use a postal vote. Students could then vote, whether they are at home or at university, wherever they feel their vote will have most impact.

Ruth Potter, Labour Students' national secretary, said: "If the

Tories go for April, they will have an advantage because students tend to vote Labour. But we are working hard on our campaign."

However, one Tory MP with some 5,000 students in his marginal constituency, rejected the idea, saying he had many active Tory students who would help him secure much of the student vote. "It is a bit of a dated concept that all students are left-wing," he said.

At the last election, the National Union of Students recognised the impact of their members' vote and was accused of backing Labour by urging students to vote in marginal seats. The union's "Target 70" campaign urged students to vote in 70 key seats where the number of students was larger than the sitting MP's majority.

Blair prepared for isolation in defence of British interests

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR made clear yesterday that he would be prepared to stand up for Britain's interests against France or Germany even if it meant Britain was in a "minority of one" in the European Union.

In an attempt to counter Tory accusations that he would be a soft touch in the EU as prime minister, the Labour leader insisted that he would not give up Britain's veto over defence, taxation, immigration and border controls. He also indicated that he would stop any attempts by France and Germany to set up a "cabal" of those already committed to joining a single European currency to oversee the introduction of the euro.

John Major will today report to MPs on the EU summit in Dublin. In his Commons statement, he will emphasise that he will not sign a post-Maastricht treaty until he has won a British opt-out from the 48-hour working week and an end to quota-hopping by continental fishermen.

Some Cabinet ministers are

extremely depressed at the outcome of the summit, which saw the publication of the first Euro notes. "The single currency is unstoppable," said one senior minister. "Mr Major is standing in the way of an runaway train."

The debate over whether Britain should leave the EU would inevitably be reopened, he said. Yesterday it was reported that some MPs on the Europhile wing of the party were threatening to jump ship and join the Liberal Democrats after the general election.

Archy Kirkwood, the Liberal Democrats' Chief Whip, claimed that a dozen Tory MPs had approached him. Kenneth Clarke last night risked fuelling Tory divisions by hitting back at criticism of the new Euro banknotes, accusing the "Euro-sceptic press" of a "ridiculous" reaction to the design of the single currency. The Chancellor, in an interview on BBC2's *The Money Programme* said, the notes were "all right."

Mr Blair yesterday sought to present himself as a leader who could write a better deal out of Europe than Mr Major. He intends to spend the next weeks trying to eradicate any fears that Labour would know how to Brussels. Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World this Weekend*, "I've made it absolutely clear - I will resolutely stand up for British interests, but British interests are that we are strong, leading players in Europe, not in a position of perpetual marginalisation," he said.

"If it is in Britain's interest to be isolated through the use of the national veto, then we will be isolated. If it is in Britain's interest to be a minority of one we shall be a minority of one."

He argued that because of divisions within the Tory party Britain was probably in its weakest negotiating position since it entered the Common Market.

neighbouring schools would be invited to tender for contracts to take over. The existing head could be dismissed. The new leadership would then be given up to a year with specific performance targets, before being inspected by Ofsted. If the school had improved it would be able to stand on its own feet again. But if it failed, it would be closed or merged with its successful neighbour.

Labour puts forward plans to revitalise failing schools

By JILL SHERMAN

TONY BLAIR will today set out plans to rescue failing schools by allowing head teachers of good neighbouring schools to take them over.

In a speech at Ruskin College, Oxford, Mr Blair will announce that a Labour government would give local councils powers to intervene at an earlier stage when schools encounter problems because

of poor discipline or low standards.

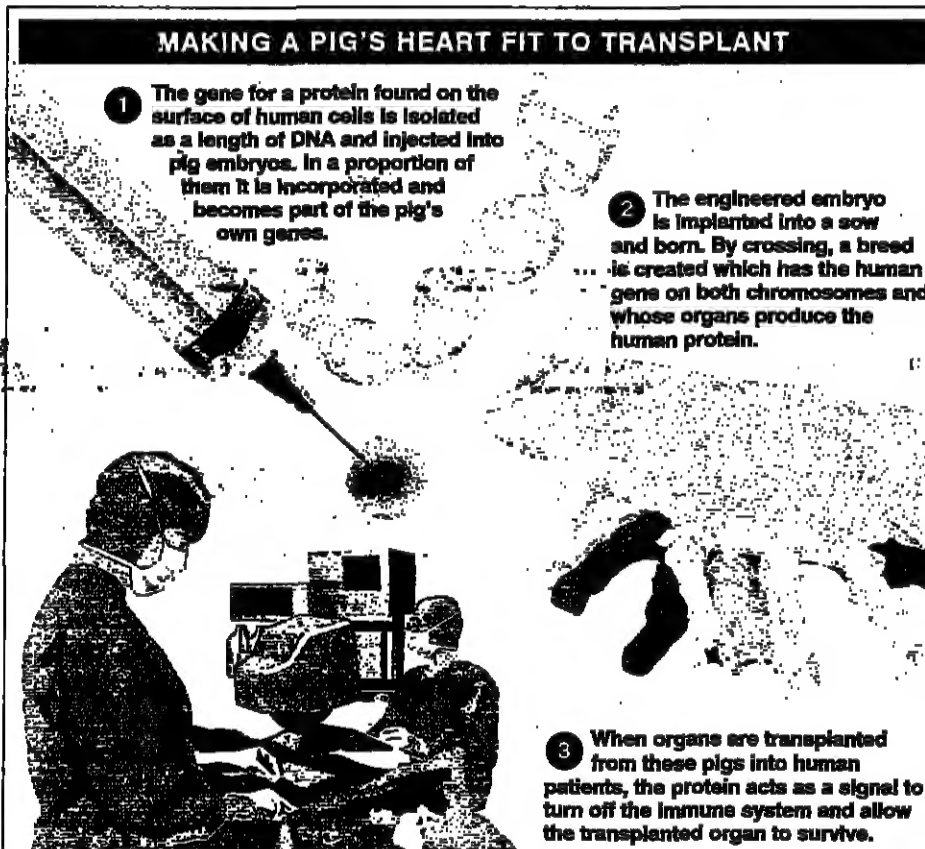
Under the proposals, local education authorities would be expected to draw up a "takeover" plan once they realised a school was running into trouble, and before Ofsted, the school inspectors were called in. Under the plan, which would be piloted in primary schools in the first year of a Labour government, head teachers of thriving

neighbouring schools would be invited to tender for contracts to take over.

The existing head could be dismissed. The new leadership would then be given up to a year with specific performance targets, before being inspected by Ofsted. If the school had improved it would be able to stand on its own feet again. But if it failed, it would be closed or merged with its successful neighbour.



Doctor in waiting: John Wallwork is helping to perfect the technique that may allow pig organs to be transplanted into human beings without risk of rejection



Pig transplants still have to overcome critics' rejection

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

MORE than 6,000 people are waiting for transplants in Britain, but less than half are likely to have them because of a shortage of donated organs. The gap is growing wider as advances in transplant surgery increase the number of people who can be treated.

The availability of organs is limited by families' reluctance to give consent - at least 30 per cent refuse - and the reduction in road accidents. This is the motivation for xenotransplantation - the use of organs from animals.

The pressure for pig transplants to succeed has increased this year because of slow progress for mechanical hearts. Animal tissue, including insulin and heart valves, has been used to save human lives for many years and is regarded as safe. But transplanting whole organs fresh

from the pig may introduce retroviruses to which humans have not been exposed. This is why the Government has delayed approval for the first pig-organ transplants.

Genetic manipulation is also required to prevent the body rejecting the organs. A pig's heart would be destroyed in hours by a process called hyperacute rejection.

The answer is to create pigs with organs that can fool the human immune system, and this is the technique being perfected by Imutran, a company founded by David White, an immunologist at Cambridge University, and John Wallwork, director of transplantation at Papworth Hospital, near Cambridge. Human organs are not attacked by the immune system because they carry signalling proteins - "molecular white

flags" - that declare them to be human.

The pigs bred by Imutran include the gene for one such protein, which may be enough to ward off hyperacute rejection. American rivals have followed a similar approach. Preliminary experiments are encouraging.

Many human diseases are spread from, or originate in, animals. These include Aids, derived from a monkey disease. Dr John Allan, of the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research in San Antonio, Texas, said: "It is irresponsible to do these types of experiments when the downside is the possibility of creating greater suffering through the spread of infectious diseases."

Epidemic fears, page 1
 Leading article, page 19

Extra curb on fraud by private services

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

PRIVATE contractors receiving public funds are to be subject to new financial controls to curb fraud and corruption.

The powers are expected to be given to the Comptroller and Auditor General, Sir John Bourn, who is expected to inspect a range of new services worth at least £15 billion which have been hired off from Government.

Whitehall sources last week suggested he might also take on responsibilities in relation to local authority cash paid to private contractors for various services.

The change is expected to be included in a White Paper on governance and probity to be launched next month by Roger Freeman, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Sir John has argued for some time that he should have an automatic right to follow public cash, and is particularly concerned to track the £651 million paid to housing associations.

He believes it is anomalous, for example, that the European Court of Auditors is allowed to follow European Union money paid in Britain to the end source, such as the payment of Common Agricultural Policy grants to individual farmers, while he does not have this statutory right.

The need for this external inspection was demanded by the Audit Commission, the local government watchdog, in a submission to Lord Nolan, head of the committee monitoring standards in public life.

Andrew Foster, chief executive of the Audit Commission, said: "A rigorous public audit regime should apply to all bodies which are responsible for spending public money, whatever their formal status." He listed grant-maintained schools, Training and Enterprise Councils, Universities, Housing Associations and private companies contracted to provide public services.

A commission spokesman said last week they did not mind who conducted the audits as long as the change was made urgently.

The new White Paper will also propose that Government advisory bodies and groups should be subject to more stringent scrutiny.



Bourn: has called for new measures

Hopes rise on Ulster arms pact

Hopes rose yesterday that nationalists and Unionists will reach agreement on the thorny issue of disarming terrorists, allowing the Stormont talks to progress to full scale discussions about the future of Northern Ireland.

Sean Farren, a senior member of the SDLP negotiating team at the talks, said he hoped that the Ulster Unionists, the Alliance Party and the SDLP would sign a joint document on disarmament this week. Differences over how to disarm terrorists have held up progress in the talks since they opened in June, and an agreement between the main parties at Stormont would be a major step forward.

Tree abandoned

Parents of the Dumbane victims have abandoned a plan to place a Christmas tree next to the semi-circle of graves where their children are buried after their relatives brought protests from residents. The 6ft tree would have had 17 white lights to mark the 16 children and their teacher Owen Mayor in the Dumbane cemetery.

Official cleared

A council housing manager has been cleared of allegations that he kept his job by fabricating evidence to an official inquiry. Bernard Crofton, a housing benefit "fraudbuster" with Hackney council, east London, has been under investigation for seven months after a damning report about his methods by Ian MacDonald, QC.

Pitch invasion

Police horses were used to divide rival Bristol City and Rovers supporters after hundreds of fans invaded the pitch following a last-minute equaliser. There were four arrests in the fighting, two people, including a child, were injured, neither seriously. The Football Association said that it would launch an inquiry. Report, page 26

Bullbars Bill

Bullbars on vehicles would be banned under a Bill to come before the House of Commons in the new year. Paul Flynn, Labour MP for Newport West, said yesterday, Mr Flynn said that well over 200 backbenchers across the Commons had expressed support for his campaign, which was gaining ground on the European mainland.

Baby soother

Babies could be spared pain by using a system that measures suffering. Research at Liverpool John Moores University report in *Pediatric Nursing* that by listening to shut out r in become increasingly rigid, have a space between the big toe and other toes, hold thumbs inside a fist, eyes tightly shut and many frown lines.

Father's tribute

Alex Balchin, 21, whose father is chairman of the Grant Maintained School Foundation and a longstanding Conservative adviser or education, has died after falling from the roof of London's disused County Hall after a party. Sir Robert Balchin paid tribute to his son's work at a centre for the homeless in Brighton.

Climber dies

A climber died and two companions were seriously injured when they fell 300ft while traversing an ice field in driving rain in Snowdonia. The dead man was named as John Fitton, 52, from Southport, Merseyside. His friends are being treated for fractures in hospital in Bangor. Others in the group suffered shock.

Reasons for buying Sony 8mm video.

There's a stack.



Get high definition, brilliant colour and a free, stackable storage cube when you buy two Sony 8mm video tapes.

*While stocks last. Offer requires the purchase of two, 8mm, 60 min. and 5 min. of 8mm and 5 min. of 8mm.

SONY

Jealous women shop until their husbands drop

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH AND NICK NUTTALL

WIVES are taking revenge on career-obsessed husbands by turning into compulsive shoppers and running up huge debts. Oxford academics who set out to study Britain's growing number of shopaholics were surprised to find how many were motivated not by pleasure, but by hate.

Out of an estimated 700,000 obsessed shoppers, one in ten is now believed to be spending because she feels patronised or has had her self-confidence undermined by a successful partner. The husband then discovers that success has brought down their finances and their marriage.

Some of the wives feel that it will help to attract their husband's attention, but many of the marriages simply collapse. The findings published today come from four years of research by Professor Kevin Gurney and Dr Richard Elliott of Oxford University's School of Management Studies, funded by the Government's Economic and Social Research Council. Dr Elliott said: "It's another middle-class disease."

"The fact that people would do this for revenge was completely unexpected. The revenge behaviour seems to be particularly linked to partners of professionals. Lots of people

Shoppers looking forward to the January sales are most likely to be motivated by beating someone else to a bargain, according to a study of sales mania by researchers at the Manchester School of Management. Questioned on their motives, 74 per cent said they loved beating someone to the same bargain, 65 per cent liked boasting to friends and colleagues, 51 per cent felt that the sales allowed them to get one-up on the retailer, and 48 per cent enjoyed the detective work in finding a true bargain.

do this to a lesser extreme. What seems to have happened is that while a husband or partner is developing a career and becoming wealthy, the spouse is also developing in many ways. However, the husband still treats her like a child or like the woman he married 20 years ago. What the woman seems to be saying is, 'I have changed. I am not a shy, flighty little woman.'"

One woman ran up a debt of £70,000 after remortgaging her house, without her husband's knowledge. The mar-

riage failed. Another, named only as Julie, 36, a doctor's wife from the Midlands, said: "I think I am being done out of weekend trips away because my husband is a self-confessed workaholic. Shopping is a way of getting back at him. I say, 'Well, if you took more notice of me and more time off, I wouldn't have to do it, would I?' He treats me in exactly the same way as when we were first married."

Dr Elliott said classic professional groups afflicted by the addiction were lawyers and doctors. "They are successful people who have to work very long hours to achieve what they want."

He suggested that the Duchess of York — whose marriage failed after she was separated from her husband for long periods while he was away with the Navy, and is now struggling to contain huge debts — was a prominent example of the condition.

"It is a revenge and control paradox," he said. "When the person is shopping they feel they are in control when they are most out of control. It is an area of their lives where they are taking the decisions."

The researchers carried out detailed interviews with 50 shopping addicts and sent postal questionnaires to a further 101. Among a range of motives, one in ten wanted to add meaning to their lives by being good at something. They want to become "skilful shoppers".

Most of the others shop compulsively to counter depression. Less than half were happy in marriage or a relationship. In comparison, a similar survey of "normal consumers" found that 75 per cent are happy with their marriages. About 40 per cent had little or no interest in sex, against 14 per cent among the control group.

The researchers claim the financial cost of the condition can be enormous, with average debts ranging from between £12,000 and £15,000. Most compulsive shoppers were women and most of the items bought were clothes which were often never worn.

Fun shopping, page 13



Dr Richard Elliott in Oxford shopping centre. He said: "It's another middle-class disease"

US divorcee must get by on £10m

THE American millionaire Katrina Dart, who claims a £10 million maintenance award made to her in the High Court is not enough to keep her in the style to which she has become accustomed, has failed in a final attempt to increase the sum.

Three law lords have ruled that Mrs Dart, the 37-year-old ex-wife of the multimillionaire Robert Dart, is not entitled to a penny more. She will now have to meet an estimated £1.5 million in legal costs from the award.

After a private hearing, Lord Lloyd, Steyn and Hope refused her leave to appeal to them against a Court of Appeal ruling in July which refused to increase the award and upheld the £10 million payout ordered by Mr Justice Johnson in March.

Mrs Dart's fortune — estimated by him at £400 million and by her at more than £1 billion — comes from manufacturing polystyrene containers for fast food.

Princess delayed on way to service

By A STAFF REPORTER

DIANA, Princess of Wales, missed nearly half of Prince Harry's school concert yesterday after a road crash delayed her journey.

The Princess, who prides herself on punctuality, arrived at Ludgrove School, Berkshire, 25 minutes after the hour-long service had started. The fatal crash on the M4 had caused long delays, with only one westbound lane open.

The Prince of Wales had arrived in plenty of time. After the service, the Princess drove away smiling. Prince William alongside her. The Prince of Wales was a few cars behind, in the passenger seat.

It was the start of the Christmas holidays for Prince Harry, who is 12. The two Princes are likely to spend time with their mother at her home in Kensington Palace. They are expected to travel to Sandringham for Christmas with their father.

The Princess is not expected

at Sandringham, but has reportedly been invited by the Queen to the annual family lunch at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday. Prince William will remain at Sandringham when Prince Charles and Prince Harry go skiing at Klosters, in the Swiss Alps, on December 30.

Yesterday, a claim that the Queen intends to give up Buckingham Palace as her main base was firmly denied. The report, in the *News of the World*, said that she had agreed to move out by next November 28, to live permanently at Windsor Castle, allowing the royal apartments to be used for offices, while the state rooms could be open to the public all year.

A Palace spokesman said: "This is completely untrue. The Queen's working week is spent here. The people she needs to see are in London."

Richard Hodges, page 18

Pagan worshipper joins the magistrates' bench

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A FOLLOWER of the pagan Wiccan faith is to be appointed a magistrate. Aileen Grist, 42, believes that her unusual background will enable her to make fair court decisions.

She said: "My faith teaches me to see the good and goddesses in all people. So I will make court decisions on the act done by a person, rather than on their appearance. My religion cares about the earth and is non-destructive. Hopefully I can be very understanding in hearing cases."

Mrs Grist became a follower of Wicca five years ago when she met her husband, Tony, an former vicar who turned from the Anglican Church after the collapse of his first marriage. The couple's living room in their home in Hathershaw, Greater



Grist had wanted to do community-based work.

Manchester, is a temple dedicated to Hermes, Aphrodite and the Unconquered Sun.

"I applied to the bench because my rheumatoid arthritis prevents me from getting involved with other

community-based work," Mrs Grist said. She added that her honesty about her religious beliefs had prompted questioning by court officials. "They were satisfied with my answers."

Oldham magistrates confirmed that Mrs Grist had been accepted as one of 16 members to be sworn in on February 11 after training. A spokeswoman said: "The bench is supposed to represent all sections of society and that is what we aim to do."

A courtroom has shut for two weeks while alterations costing £23,000 are carried out so that a woman who uses a wheelchair can sit as a magistrate. Margaret Gunn, 48, from Winchester, Hampshire, said: "I appreciate it is a lot of money, but I could not sit without this work being done."



Nerves of steel: Bailey the Doberman, whose suspected stomach upset was found to be caused by a 13in stainless steel kitchen knife

Knife-swallowing dog not in the least cut up

By ROBIN YOUNG

A DOBERMANN puppy swallowed a 13in kitchen knife and has the X-rays to prove it. While urban mythology abounds with tales of Dobermanns gobbling up burglars' fingers or smaller dogs, Bailey's unprecedented feat of turning canine sword-swallower is beyond doubt, being fully documented and professionally attested.

Bailey's owner, Hannah Ransom, 22, who lives near Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, took the five-month-old pup to the vet because it could not keep its food down. On the first two visits the vets gave the dog antibiotics to cure what they

took to be a tummy upset. However, when its condition still did not improve four days after the symptoms were noticed, Bailey was X-rayed.

The vet, Mike Stevenson, could not believe his eyes, and supposed the outline of the knife which showed on the film must have been caused by something accidentally left on the X-ray table. However, a second scan confirmed that Bailey had indeed ingested a bellyful, in the form of a stainless steel knife with a plastic handle.

The knife reached from the bottom of its stomach to the back of its throat. Bailey seems to have per-

formed his omnivorous feat while chewing on the knife's bone-like handle. Once swallowed, the handle lodged in its stomach, leaving the knife blade lining its oesophagus and preventing it swallowing food. In a delicate half-hour operation Mr Stevenson, 28, gradually eased the blade along Bailey's gullet and out of its mouth until he could pull the whole knife clear.

Ms Ransom said: "Though Bailey was being sick a lot he remained his usual playful self, even while the knife was stuck inside him. He has chewed chunks out of the settee before, but never done anything as daft as swallow-



Ransom took dog to vet

ing a knife. We do not leave knives lying around. He must have snatched this one from the draining board."

Mr Stevenson, of the Rowe veterinary centre in Bradley Green, said: "This is the biggest and most bizarre foreign object I have ever had to remove from a dog. He was lucky not to be injured. He escaped damage only because the blade was blunt. If it had been sharp it would have cut him internally and almost certainly killed him."

Mr Stevenson said that he has had to retrieve squash balls, pebbles, pillow cases and tights from dogs' interiors, but Bailey's internal acquisition was a cut above the competition.

Ms Ransom reported that Bailey was now back to normal. "He is full of beans, behaving like a tornado on four legs," she said.

IS MERCHANTS TAKEAWAY PIZZA INDIAN RESTAURANTS BED & BREAKFASTS CINEMAS T
OPS EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES LADIES HAIRDRESSERS RAILWAY STATIONS AIRPORTS BUS
URANTS GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS DOUBLE GL
EHICLES BUILDERS CAR BODY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE
NG MOBILE
AL HE
PUBS
NG SU
NG SU
NG SU
EUR DR
ATORS CA
RS & FITTERS SECURITY SERVICES & EQUIP
REPAIRS BEDS & BEDDING LA
AY SERVICES NURSING HOM
COPIERS RESIDENTIAL & RET
WAY PIZZA INDIAN RESTAU
YMENT AGENCIES LADIES
E SERVICES FLORISTS PLUM
ERS CAR BODY REPAIRS LOCKSMITHS G
HONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAIN
VALS & STORAGE CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS
CEMENT WINDSCREENS AIR CONDITIONING
E SERVICE FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WIN
ERS CAR BODY REPAIRS LOCKSMITHS GLAZIERS ROO
VALS & STORAGE CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS
CEMENT WINDSCREENS AIR CONDITIONING
TY MANA
S BURG
S & EQUI
NANCE
TORS RO
EUR DRIV
ERS & DECORAT
E DOOR SUPPLIERS &
RS RADIO TV &
CLAYING PAVIN
DIO DEALERS
S MERCHANT
OPS EMP
URANTS
EHICLES B
NG MOBILE
AL HE
PUBS
NG SU

FREEPAGES,
I WONDER IF
YOU CAN HELP?!



Whatever business or service you're looking for, locally or nationally, call Freepages. We're here to help 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and it won't cost you a penny.

FREEPAGES 0800 192 192

http://www.freepages.co.uk

An open letter to the Rt Hon. Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Dear Foreign Secretary

This morning you are flying to Cyprus on what is indeed an historic first ever visit by a British Foreign Secretary. You will be visiting a country that for the past 22 years is under occupation and where people have been living in constant fear because of Turkey's massive military presence.

Many governments have repeatedly stated that the present situation is unacceptable. None has done anything substantive to change it. Several initiatives were undertaken by the UN Secretary General in this direction but all have failed. A plethora of Security Council resolutions remain unimplemented. The reason for the failure of all initiatives as eloquently stated in the Secretary General's Report of 30 May 1994, is the lack of political will on the Turkish side.

The Turkish Cypriots are constantly being forced to emigrate with the result that about 40% of them, especially the young ones, have left the island and most of them are here, in London. In the meantime Turkey is rapidly altering the demographic composition of the occupied area by implanting settlers from mainland Turkey. The threat that, in the near future the settlers from Turkey may be the only people living in the occupied part of the island, is very real.

So, beyond the human suffering, the agony and frustration, we must recognise that the longer the present situation continues, the more difficult it will be to solve it.

We welcome the signals sent by the British Government that you are determined to be effectively and deeply engaged in the efforts to solve the problem. In this respect it is important to bear in mind the following:

- Tolerance has never solved any problem. In the case of Cyprus tolerance has facilitated the Turkish occupation. Britain as a guarantor power has the obligation to guarantee the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Cyprus which are being grossly violated by the continuing Turkish occupation.
- The presence of the Turkish troops on the island and the continued ethnic cleansing, carried out by Turkey, are a gross violation of the principles of international law, the several resolutions of the United Nations, the principles of the Council of Europe — of which Turkey is a member — and the code of conduct of the OSCE of which Turkey is also a member.
- Denktash's dream is to become 'President' of a recognised state. He hopes that by blocking all efforts for a solution to the Cyprus problem, his illegal entity will, eventually be recognised. In this respect he interprets any visits or meetings with him or the members of his illegal regime by foreign officials, in the occupied area or abroad, not as an encouragement for a solution, but as a step towards recognition of his illegal regime.
- Cyprus will soon be commencing accession negotiations with the European Union. The period from now until these negotiations commence is ideal for making every effort to reach a solution. Thus, every opportunity available should be explored with urgency. At the same time any signals which highlight and magnify difficulties of accession of Cyprus if the problem is not solved, are not only unnecessary but are damaging the prospect for the accession process serving as catalyst for the solution of the problem.

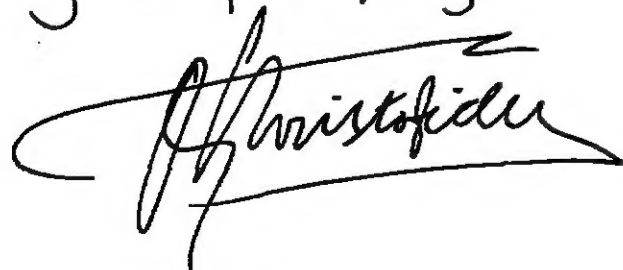
Dear Foreign Secretary,

Your mission will be successful if you send a clear message to Mr Denktash, that Britain will never recognise his illegal regime and that the British Government is determined to do its utmost for an urgent solution to the Cyprus problem.

This is the moment for resolute action and not declarations.

We wish you every success in your mission and we will support fully any determined effort to bring an end to the Cyprus problem.

Yours faithfully



George Christofides

On behalf of the National Federation of Cypriots in Great Britain

grave from
unearthed
each builder



Call for
info on
war on

• • • • •

Caesarean mothers challenge legal might of judges



Court campaign: Fahima Chowdhury and her son

THE power of High Court judges to compel women to undergo surgery is to be challenged in a ground-breaking action by two women forced to have Caesarean sections.

The women have been granted legal aid to sue hospital authorities that were granted emergency orders to carry out the operations. Judges from the High Court's Family Division who have made the orders, at private hearings and without the women being legally represented, may also face an unprecedented legal action.

Lawyers for the mothers are preparing a challenge to the common law immunity from legal action that judges enjoy, on the ground that they exceeded their powers in ordering the women to be detained so that surgery could be carried out.

There has been a series of cases in the past year in which hospitals

have sought emergency court orders, often outside normal court hours, to enable them to conduct what they say are lifesaving Caesarean sections. The Official Solicitor is usually involved in the hearings, but only to advise the court or to represent the interests of the baby. He does not act for the woman.

In the latest case, Mr Justice Kirkwood granted an order for a woman to be given a drip that enabled the hospital to carry out a Caesarean. Doctors said the operation was needed to save the life of her unborn child. The mother, aged 20, refused to have the drip because she had a phobia of needles, but she has since thanked the hospital for its actions.

One of the women granted legal aid is Fahima Chowdhury, who was forced to give birth by Caesarean to a boy, Mahbubur, at Birch Hill Hospital, Rochdale. She had painful

■ Women forced to undergo surgery, after secret hearings at which they have no legal representative, want to overturn judges' traditional common law immunity from legal action, writes Frances Gibb

after-effects from a previous Caesarean and said that she would rather die than have another.

Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust applied for a court order three days into labour in June, believing that her Caesarean scar was at risk of rupturing, putting her and the baby's life at risk. The order was granted by Mr Justice Johnson, but Mrs Chowdhury then consented to the Caesarean. She said in a newspaper: "There were five doctors around my bed all telling me that I would die and so would my baby if I didn't have a Caesarean." The hospital said that it had acted

properly and would do the same again if life were at risk.

The second mother in the legal action is a professional woman who does want to be named. She was detained in hospital in April under the Mental Health Act 1983 when eight months pregnant and suffering from pre-eclampsia. The hospital authorities obtained a court order without her being legally represented and she underwent a Caesarean against her wishes.

Beverly Beech, of the Association for Improvements in the Maternity Services, said: "It is outrageous that doctors should be overruling the

wishes of patients in these cases. They say that lives are at risk but that is by no means certain. There have been a number of cases in the United States where women have contested these orders and gone on to give birth without the need for a Caesarean."

It is not possible to say how many cases there have been because of the secrecy of the orders. Among those that have come to light are a second order granted in June by Mr Justice Johnson to Norfolk and Norwich Healthcare NHS Trust, where the judge held that the woman was not able to weigh up information in order to make an informed decision. Some lawyers said that the order had effectively defined pregnant women as incompetent. Jameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust was granted an order by Mr Justice Wall, who held that a Caesarean was treatment for a

mental disorder under the Mental Health Act.

Richard Stein, of the London solicitors Leigh Day & Co., is collating cases of women ordered to have Caesareans. With Barbara Hewson, a barrister, he is considering challenging the judges through judicial review or, ultimately, in the European Court of Human Rights. The action would be brought on the basis that the judges had "falsely imprisoned" the women "without show of right", as the law holds, or parliamentary authority. Alternatively, they could be sued for trespass.

Mr Stein said: "It is worrying that such an important public policy development is happening by stealth." Such orders should be publicly debated, not brought in "late on Friday afternoons, in private, with the threat of a dead baby hanging over the judge".

Surgery that the patient would prefer to forget



Dr Thomas Stuttardford

AFTER surgery for gallstones at King's Mill Hospital, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, Christine Crapper no longer suffers from abdominal discomfort, nausea or acute pain but has gained £2,000 and a medical story to make the blood run cold.

Mrs Crapper, 49, of Mansfield, was at first given, accidentally, such a light anaesthetic that she could hear the surgeons talking and experienced the sensation of them opening up her abdomen. She felt the anaesthetic tube in her throat, had the sense that she was suffocating and was conscious of the surgeons rummaging in her abdomen.

She was, however, quite unable to talk or move to draw their attention to her wakefulness. Mrs Crapper was completely paralysed as the muscle-relaxant she had had, unlike her anaesthetic, was working perfectly.

There is probably a smaller chance of having a bad anaesthetic in Britain than anywhere else in the world, for we realised here, sooner than most doctors elsewhere did, that a good anaesthetic was as important to the patient's recovery as a good surgeon.

The trouble arose at King's Mill Hospital because there was a leaking tube in the anaesthetic machine, so some of the mixture intended to put

Mrs Crapper soundly asleep escaped. The fault was soon noticed, and rectified, after which Mrs Crapper received the correct dose and additional oxygen.

Even so, the patient was able to hear the anaesthetist say to the surgeon, once the machine was in running order: "All right, carry on." For good measure, Mrs Crapper was later also given intravenous midazolam, a benzodiazepine marketed as Hypnovel, which is not only a useful sedative, but also has the great advantage that in most cases, but not obviously in Mrs Crapper's, it eliminates any memories of the operation.

Mrs Crapper is not the first person to have heard surgeons talking during an operation, nor will she be the last. But this occurs rarely and, even when it does, pain is not often experienced, as this is one of the first sensations to be blunted by anaesthesia. Hearing is the last to go.

In one of the first anaesthetics I ever gave, I was too keen that the patient should wake up after the operation. My anaesthetic was so light that he remembered every word spoken in theatre. The patient, a jolly Cockney, said that he had felt no pain, and was not even concerned. He nonetheless greatly enjoyed recounting the story afterwards whenever we met.



Students at Grange school yesterday. One said: "I do get exhausted going to school six days a week, but it will be worthwhile if I get the grades"

Sunday classes help pupils make the grade

By PAUL WILKINSON

A SCHOOL with some of the worst examination results in the country opened for Sunday lessons yesterday in an attempt to improve students' performance.

Grange upper school, in Bradford, west Yorkshire, which is near the bottom of the education league tables, will open for at least the next five Sundays. About 70 students, all volunteers, turned up yesterday.

Consolidation classes in mathematics, English, science and personal and social development were held from 10am to 1pm at the comprehensive in the mainly Asian district of Great Horton. Richard Thompson, the head teacher, said: "The youngsters have a

tremendous thirst for work and when I offered them the Sunday morning classes they nearly bit my hand off. Now half of year 11 will be coming in every Sunday and that is very encouraging. We are trying to tap into their motivation; and for them to come in on Sundays affirms the strength within themselves to do well."

The students, aged 15 and 16, are preparing for their GCSEs next year. Six teachers have agreed to take classes voluntarily and Mr Thompson commended their commitment. Only 10 per cent of students at the school gained five GCSEs at grades A to C last summer, according to the league tables compiled by Bradford Education Authority.

John Ryan, Bradford education com-

mittee chairman, said: "This is just the sort of thing we are looking for and trying to encourage. It is testament to the school that it wants to do the best it can for its pupils. There is an urgent priority in the district schools to raise the level of achievement and Grange has to be commended for setting up these classes, particularly in English and maths. I would like to see other schools follow suit."

Money for the extra classes this month has been provided by Bradford council and next month's lessons will be financed by a donation from the Bradford study support network, a group of parents and educationalists dedicated to improving academic achievement in the city. However, Mr Thompson, who admits that he has

been going round the community with "a begging bowl" for financial assistance, hopes to attract a business or industrial sponsor.

One student, Elizabeth Khan, 16, said her grades had already improved. She added: "The atmosphere on Sundays is more relaxed than on normal schooldays, which relieves the pressure on the teachers and gives them more time to go through work on an individual basis."

Zeshann Ejaz, 15, said: "This is an important term for us. I do get exhausted going to school six days a week, but it will be worthwhile if I get the grades I need to become a chemist. I was surprised that so many other pupils turned up on a Sunday. I had nothing better to do."

Widow rejects killer's sympathy

By RICHARD FORD

THE widow of Philip Lawrence last night dismissed his killer's first words of contrition. Frances Lawrence was responding to an interview with *Leeds Evening Live* in which he expressed sympathy for the murdered headmaster.

She said: "Mr Chindamo's words reported in a public capacity hold little significance for me. If he were to communicate privately that might be a different matter."

Chindamo, 16, said he prayed for Mrs Lawrence and her four children and was thinking of writing them a Christmas message of sympathy. He said: "I think of him when I am praying. I pray for the family every night and ask God to look after them."

Chindamo also said in the interview, published in *The Sunday Times*: "I think he [Mr Lawrence] was very brave."

Chindamo's calls may now be monitored as ministers are concerned that he was able to talk to a reporter by telephone from the youth treatment centre in Birmingham where he has been detained since being convicted of Mr Lawrence's murder.

Gerry Malone, the Health Minister, is to consider whether all telephone calls to young criminals at Glenelg youth treatment centre should be monitored by staff. At present calls to and from the centre are not monitored, but those for high-risk Category A prisoners are.

One option likely to be discussed would be to seek a court order banning the media from attempting to contact Chindamo or publish details about his whereabouts and treatment.

**AN OFFER WORTH
£129 WHEN YOU
SPEND £4.99 ONLY
AT HALFORDS**

This fully featured Blaupunkt M-Com 554 comes with an offer worth £129.

It's just one of the simple, money-saving deals you'll find on specially selected phones at Halfords. You'll also always find friendly advice. But hurry - this particular offer ends on 31st December.

BOSCH

BLAUPUNKT

Free Connection
(Normally £29.95)
Free Hands Free Car Kit
(RRP £54.99)
Send away for this offer
Free 3 Months Line Rental
(Normally £45)

Monthly Rental £15 (inc. VAT).
Off Peak Calls 50p per minute.
Peak Rate Calls 60p per minute (8am - 5pm Mon-Fri).

HALFORDS

Young laughter masks the quiet despair at Christmas

By JOHN YOUNG

IN A room at Guy's Hospital, southeast London, a children's Christmas party is taking place, organised by volunteers from the Prince's Trust. There are clowns and balloons, games and music, cakes and ice-cream and some of the young patients are enjoying themselves noisily.

Some, but not all. Sian Gorvett, a pretty, fragile-looking six-year-old from Chatham, Kent, is sitting in a pushchair while her parents, Sue and Graham, try to get her to drink from a plastic mug. She is suffering from a rare metabolic disorder which inhibits her digestion.

Despite being on drugs and a special diet, she is subject to infections which make her unable to keep her food down. "She has lost a lot of weight



Sian Gorvett: has rare metabolic disorder

and energy and is very tired," her mother said. The last couple of months have been the worst. Her father said: "Our local hospital in Chatham couldn't cope, so she's been here in Guy's for the last five weeks and Sue has had to stay with her the whole time."

The Evelina Appeal

I enclose a cheque / postal order (payable to The Evelina Children's Hospital Appeal) for £.....

Or, please debit my Visa / Access / Mastercard account

Expiry date: / / Today's date: / /

Signature: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ POSTCODE: _____

DAYTIME PHONE No: _____

To make an instant credit card donation, please telephone: 0171-403 4099, or send this coupon with your donation to:

The Evelina Appeal Office
Henrietta Raphael House
Guy's Hospital
St Thomas Street, SE1 9RT
Reg. Charity No. 251983

I would like my gift to help Research □
Care □ Equipment □ or the General Appeal Fund □ (tick as appropriate).
□ Tick here if you would like a receipt.



SWIFTCALL



Using Swiftcall you can call USA for only 10p a minute.

anytime

For details of incredible savings to hundreds of other international destinations and to open an account, call and ask for Extn 701

0800 769 0800

outside UK +44 171 488 2001

Freephone access available to Swiftcall customers on:

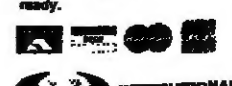
FLAT RATES

ALL PRICES ARE IN PENCE PER MINUTE

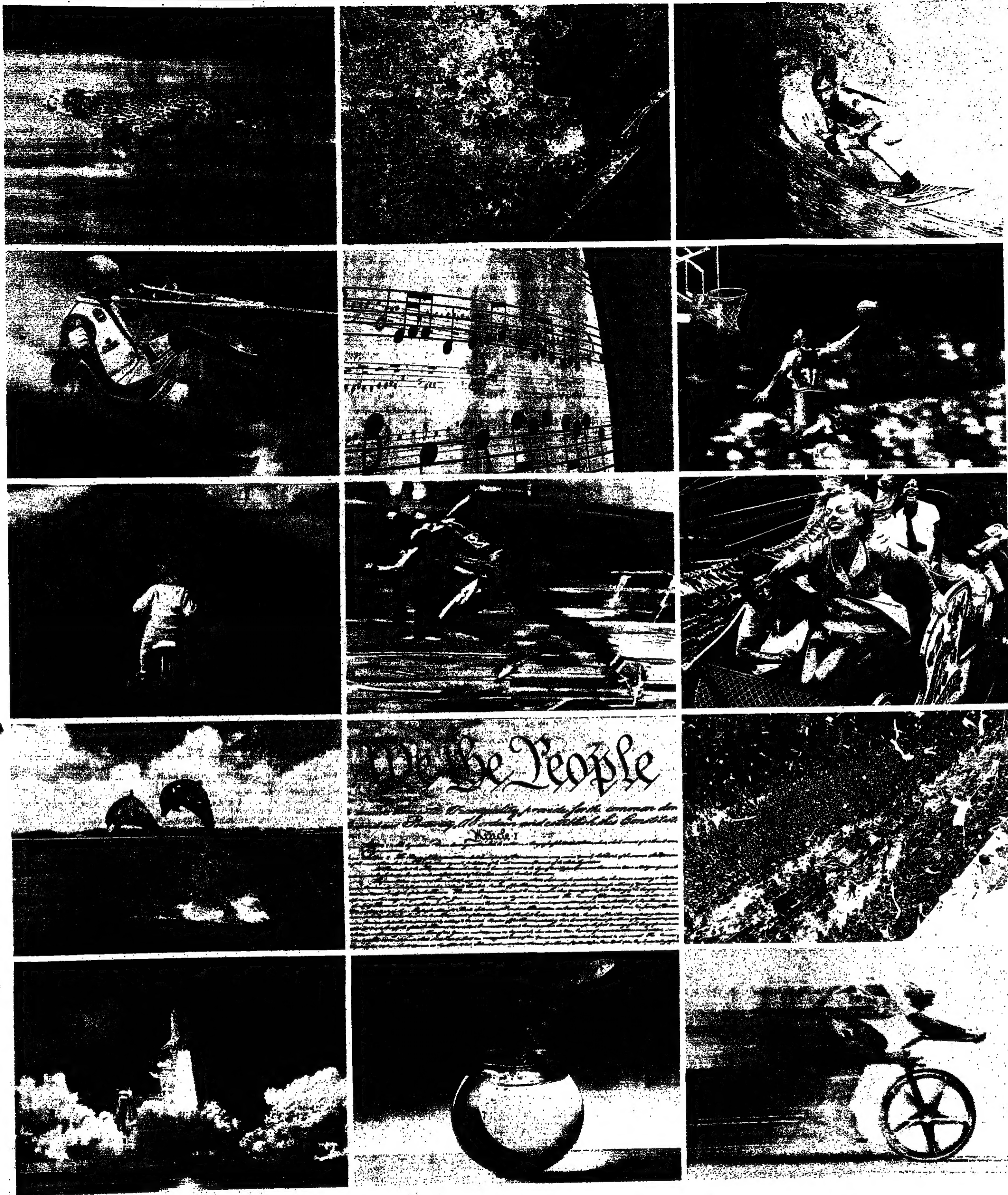
Germany	16p
Ireland	16p
France	16p
Australia	20p
Japan	30p
Taiwan	40p
Hong Kong	40p
South Korea	50p
India	60p
Nigeria	70p
Pakistan	80p

Swiftcall rates apply 24hrs a day 7 days a week.

Operators are standing by 24hrs a day 7 days a week ready to take your call. Please leave your credit card ready.



LOW COST INTERNATIONAL CALLS



There's no stopping you now.

Feel free. Free to explore the enormous business potential opened up by INFORMIX – Universal Server, the world's first integrated, object-relational database. Free, for the first time, to manage your company's data in *all* its rich variety of forms – even moving image and sound. Free to think beyond tomorrow. If you want the fullest information imaginable, feel free to call Lesley Robinson. At Informix.



World leaders in database technology.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL LESLEY ROBINSON ON 0181 818 1075. INFORMIX SOFTWARE LIMITED, 6 NEW SQUARE, BEDFONT LAKES, FELTHAM, MIDDLESEX TW14 8HA.

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

Letters, page 19



BY NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

The Dunblane Christmas record, *Knockin' on Heaven's Door*, was confirmed yesterday as the country's best-selling single, six days after going on sale. The song, performed by 14 children from Dunblane's primary and secondary schools, had its public launch on December 5 and went on sale on December 9, by which time 500,000 advance orders had been received.

TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE.
01344 724681
Between 8am and 8pm weekdays. 10am to 4pm Sat.

**** Free offer available only on Dell Dimension XPS F133s Business Bundle as specified here**

Dell and the Dell logo are registered trademarks and Dell Dimension is a trademark of Dell Computer Corporation. Intel Inside, Pentium are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. Microsoft Windows Office Professional 95 and the Windows logo are registered trademarks of the Microsoft Corporation. Microsoft is a registered trademark and the Genuine Microsoft Products logo is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and other countries. Delivery is charged at \$25 (\$24.97 and VAT) per item. Business license is available subject to terms. Indefinite warranty means product shown are based on your current model excluding VAT. Personal license available subject to terms. Full details available on request. Prices correct at date of publication. The aforementioned product may not always match the specifications in this advert. This is subject to change without notice. The prices below are suggested retail prices and vary by country and configuration. All prices and specifications are subject to change without prior notice or obligation. Offer valid while supplies last. © 1998 Dell Inc. Dell and the Dell logo are registered trademarks of Dell Computer Corporation. Dell Dimension is a trademark of Dell Computer Corporation. Intel Inside, Pentium are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. Microsoft Windows Office Professional 95 and the Windows logo are registered trademarks of the Microsoft Corporation. Microsoft is a registered trademark and the Genuine Microsoft Products logo is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and other countries.

Funny money cannot change sceptical public into Euro enthusiasts

They have designed the banknotes in the middle of next year they will unveil the coins. Rules are churning out of the Brussels machine and the "stability pact" is sealed. But the European Union's great and good are still groping for a Big Idea.

In Dublin last weekend and in the corridors of Brussels, you can still sense an undercurrent of worry beneath the façade of busy preparations for the single currency.

A few weeks ago I listened to an experienced European Commissioner admit in private that Euro-scepticism was



gaining ground across the continent. Disrespect for the EU's institutions and uninterest in their agenda were not confined to Britain, he acknowledged. But people in Brussels think, he added, that

"provided we get monetary union, everything will be OK". He did not sound so sure. The Commissioner reflected a half-spoken fear that the single currency may be loaded with more hopes than it can carry: on its own, the euro may not be the magic ingredient required to relight passion for a united Europe. If it goes wrong, it might have the opposite effect. In short, there is no big, lovable idea any more.

Once upon a time the architects of a federal EU imagined that if Europeans felt they were all part of the same, political community, they would be happy to live

under the same economic policies and in the end be keen to use the same money. In Brussels jargon, political and economic union would precede monetary union. The fact that nobody could agree whether the EU was supposed to be a cohesive superpower or simply a system to stop wars in Europe — separate purposes demanding quite different solutions — did not seem to matter much.

The Maastricht treaty nailed down the single currency but left "political union" as vague as ever: worshipped throughout German politics, paid lip service

to in France but nowhere written on paper. Now member states are trying to rewrite the treaty in an inter-governmental conference (IGC), and getting nowhere.

Tory ministers may froth about majority voting and Jacques Santer, the Commission President, may mutter that Britain's "hour of truth" is approaching, but they know that the IGC does not amount to a row of beans. "The EU is spinning its wheels but at a higher level," says Professor Hans-Peter Schwarz of Bonn University, in a penetrating attack on Germany's never-ending wish to nudge its partners to

surrender more sovereignty. Professor Schwarz, greatest living expert on the federalist faithful of his country's Christian Democratic Party, offers a simple explanation: "The more voters worry about the mysterious workings of the global economy, the less they are ready to give up the principle of popular sovereignty."

The real redistribution of power inside the EU will be the divisions drawn by the single currency: which states are in, which are out and the balance of power between the two groups.

Far-sighted federalists see two dangers lurking: first,

that the French electorate will feel dragged into the gravitational field of the Bundesbank under the false pretence that monetary union would give them control of the mark.

France may have won a tactical victory in Dublin on the deficit rules, but Paris's attempts to talk down the independence of what will be a German-flavoured central bank have been a wholesale failure so far.

The second and larger risk lies in relying on the single currency to accomplish the unification which has defeat-

ed politicians. There is no obvious reason why depoliticising the control of money and changing the colour of their banknotes should make a Dutchman or an Irishwoman feel more European than they already do.

Elizabeth Guigou, now an MEP but once France's leading EU treaty negotiator, was worrying about this in Dublin. Naturally, she wants the single currency to happen but sees "a real danger" in letting money take all the strain: "As far as public opinion is concerned, one money on its own can't work."

GEORGE BROCK

Dutch urged to freeze Britain out of talks

BRITAIN could be cut out of negotiations for a new Maastricht treaty until after the general election under a scheme pressed by several European Union states on the Dutch Government, which assumes the EU presidency on January 1.

According to Michael Patijn, the Dutch minister who takes over as head of the treaty negotiations, frustration over the pre-electoral paralysis in Britain's conduct of EU affairs is prompting demands for the 14 other members to draft a new treaty without London.

"There are some who are suggesting that we have a negotiation at 14, and then see what the British can do," Mr Patijn said. "Others are saying if you do that you basically have two negotiations in a row, first 14 and then with the British. That's a prospect that is not very appealing. We had better negotiate with 15 for now, and see how far we can go and wait for political events next spring."

Britain's Euro-reluctance, compounded by the imminent election, is the biggest challenge facing Mr Patijn, Minister for European Affairs in The Netherlands' centre-left coalition Government, as he prepares to take over from Ireland the chair of the inter-governmental conference (IGC), the treaty negotiations.

At their summit in Dublin on Saturday, EU leaders gave their blessing to Ireland's outline draft for a revamped treaty as the basis for the final version, which is due to



Charles Bremner in Dublin reports on the tough negotiating strategy being proposed against the Tory Government

emerge from a summit in Amsterdam in June. However, all the hard bargaining has been left to the Dutch turn.

Mr Patijn said The Netherlands, which is one of the most federal-minded EU members, intends to get to grips immediately with the tough "institutional" issues and would not tolerate the speechmaking that had characterised the IGC in its nine months so far.

The negotiations and insisted that Britain would block the drive, supported by all 14 others, to remove the veto from some areas of EU decision-making.

The Government's abrasive approach sharpened the chorus of frustration in Dublin from EU officials who are weary with what they see as the obstruction being applied by Britain to the Maastricht revamp. Eyes looked to the

ernment with a fresh mandate will have a much stronger political base.

The Netherlands will work to avert the production of a minimalist treaty in Amsterdam, Mr Patijn said. The Dutch Government has not, he acknowledged, forgotten the trauma of its last turn in the EU chair in 1991, when it produced a draft for the Maastricht treaty that was rejected as too federalist by all the other members. The Irish text will form the basis of "Maastricht II", rather than any grand new scheme of the 1991 type.

The Netherlands will nevertheless push for its own vision, which is reflected in the language of Wim Kok, the Prime Minister, who believes that the EU should be "freed from the tyranny of decision-making by unanimity". The Netherlands wants a stronger Commission, more power for the European Parliament, and beefed-up machinery for foreign policy and borders and police work.

On Saturday, Mr Major hammered home Britain's refusal to contemplate the call, already in the Irish draft, for a frontier-free Europe. "Our border controls are not going to be changed, not just because we are being stubborn and difficult, but because we have a wholly different tradition from our continental partners," he said.

Matthew Parris and William Rees-Mogg, page 18 Letters, page 19

Eyes looked to the ceiling in the summit chamber when Major embarked on an economics lecture

Dividing the 15 into half a dozen different camps, not just Britain versus the rest, these are about whether to extend majority voting and curb the veto, the shape of the Commission, the power of the Parliament and schemes for a more "flexible" Europe.

The Dublin summit started the countdown to what Jacques Santer, the Commission President, calls Europe's "moment of truth" at Amsterdam. In ebullient form, John Major predicted that he would be in Amsterdam to wind up

ceiling in the summit chamber when Mr Major embarked on a lecture to his fellow leaders on Friday on the merits of British economic policy, according to French officials.

The conventional Euro-wisdom is that the thorn would be at least partly removed from the European flesh if Britain were governed by Tony Blair. The question widely being asked is whether a Labour government would have enough time in power to fix Britain's position by June. Mr Patijn said: "Any British gov-



A Kazakh fisherman takes shelter inside a plastic tent against the freezing winds while fishing on the frozen Ishim river near Akmol in central Kazakhstan

Coalition partner turns fire on Prodi

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

PROFESSOR Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, returned from the Dublin European Union summit at the weekend to find himself shoring up his fragile centre-left "Olive Tree" coalition instead of trumpeting Italy's hard-fought progress toward joining the single currency.

Massimo D'Alema, the leader of the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS) — the former Communists and the main party in the coalition — chose Signor Prodi's absence to launch a wide-ranging attack on his leadership, saying the centre-left coalition had lost sight of the reforming ideals with which it was formed two years ago.

In an interview with *La Repubblica*, Signor D'Alema — who has not concealed his prime ministerial ambitions — said the Prodi Government was "not about to fall". But it should rely more on the PDS rather than being reduced to day-to-day management in an attempt to force through a "budget for Europe".

Signor D'Alema said the Government was dependent on the hard-left Rifondazione Comunista in the lower house, yet had no programmatic agreement with it. Instead of avoiding the issue, it should open formal talks with the Communists on Italy's bloated public administration, welfare, pensions and constitutional reforms.

City court quashes Milosevic poll win

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND JAMES PATTIFER IN NIS

PRESIDENT Milosevic, the Serbian leader, came under renewed pressure over rigged elections yesterday when up to 250,000 people took to the streets of Belgrade. Their action followed a dramatic court ruling in the southern industrial city of Nis which reinstated the election victory won by the Opposition last month.

The court decided in favour of the opposition coalition, which had appealed against the ruling by the local election commission that the ruling Socialists had won.

The city election commission in Nis, Serbia's second largest city, was accused of forging results in 17 election districts, ensuring victory for the Socialists. Last week Nis district court ordered the election commission to hand over all election documents.

Milo Milic, the recently ousted pro-Milosevic boss of Nis, is a hated figure. He spent taxes to provide his gun-toting entourage with trips to night clubs. The Belgrade protesters vowed to go on demonstrating until the President gave way. The demonstration ended in a huge rally last night.

Zoran Djindjic, a prominent opposition leader, said on the 28th consecutive day of protest against the cancellation last month of local election results: "Our protests will last until Serbia becomes a legal state."



A Serbian boy makes the Orthodox sign of victory at an anti-Milosevic protest in Belgrade yesterday

Yesterday a small group of students from Nis began a symbolic march to Belgrade. The 17 students, representing the 17 electoral districts in Nis where the results were allegedly forged, said their 145-mile march was intended to draw the attention of local and world public opinion.

In a letter to Mr Milosevic, the Nis students said they were determined to stop dictatorship taking over the country. About 130 students from the northern town of Novi Sad finished a 50-mile march to the capital on Saturday.

Earlier, news media controlled by Mr Milosevic accused the demonstrators of being in the service of America, Germany and other powers. Serbian television showed marchers with American and German flags. Vuk Draskovic, Serbia's chief opposition leader, left for Geneva yesterday to meet John Kornblum, the American envoy for the former Yugoslavia. Mr Milosevic has invited mediators from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to find a solution to the crisis.

Russian greens hail release of nuclear protester

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

RUSSIAN environmentalists hailed the release yesterday of a St Petersburg prisoner of Aleksandr Nikitin, who had been dubbed the country's first post-Communist political prisoner.

Although charges still stand against Captain Nikitin, environmentalists said they were confident they would now be dropped. However, their long-term goal, a full investigation into levels of radiation in the Kola peninsula in the Russian Arctic, still looks remote. Captain Nikitin, a former naval officer in the Russian Northern Fleet, had passed information on the parlous state of the nuclear industry in the Murmansk region of the far north to the Norwegian ecological group, Bellona. His detention had become a test case not only for human rights in the post-Communist era but of glasnost in the military-industrial complex.

A year ago Bellona staff members had their homes raided and documents and computer disks were confiscated in a crackdown by the FSB, the successor to the KGB. Then in February Captain Nikitin, who left the navy in 1992, was arrested and accused of being a spy. The charge was "treason against the motherland" which carries a possible death sentence, although the captain was kept in a common cell.

The arrest caused a storm of protest. Bellona accused the

authorities of trying to frighten away attention to an impending ecological crisis in the Murmansk region.

The area has a nightmarish list of problems, which qualify it to be the world's largest nuclear rubbish dump. The amounts of unsafe waste are probably the greatest in the world after spent fuel was regularly disposed of straight into the sea.

Seventy nuclear submarines are rusting in harbour without a proper programme for their upkeep; one of their number, the *Komsomolsk*, caught fire and sank off the Kola peninsula, although a predicted large radiation leak has not occurred. There is also a nuclear plant of Soviet vintage on the peninsula and a huge number of poorly maintained waste dumps.

At Zapadnaya Litsa, the main storage facility for nuclear waste, Bellona says most of the waste was moved to "temporary" open-air containers after an accident in 1982; it has stayed there ever since. Captain Nikitin was not even involved in most of this.

The FSB reverted to old-style tactics in the Nikitin case. Bellona activists were denied visas, while the FSB denied that the arrest had anything to do with Bellona. But the issue had clearly become too politically sensitive to ignore after it was repeatedly raised by the Norwegian Government and the European Parliament.

Yeltsin's economic miseries eased by £6bn from IMF

BY THOMAS DE WAAL

IN AN early new year gift to President Yeltsin, who is due back at work in the next fortnight, the International Monetary Fund agreed to unfreeze its \$10 billion (£6 billion) loan package to Russia at the weekend and the opposition-dominated parliament was cajoled into passing the 1997 budget.

In another sign that the country may be over the worst of months of

economic misery, work has resumed at most pits after an agreement to end the ten-day miners' strike. However workers at 62 mines, around a quarter of the total, continued the stoppage yesterday and a new strike was declared by air traffic controllers.

The IMF's decision to resume payments of its loan, the second largest in its history, was approved after it noted that a special government commission had raised rates of

tax collection. So far, however, it has only agreed to pay the \$336 million tranche it blocked in October and made no decision for November or December.

Since Mr Yeltsin's re-election in July, the Russian economy has been mired in a non-payments crisis because tax revenues have been so low. As a result, millions of people are destitute because they have not been paid for several months. Statistics

released yesterday put wage arrears by November 25 at 46.62 trillion rubles (£5 billion).

The budget, which was initially opposed by Communists in the State Duma, was passed yesterday in what has become a familiar pattern of opposition deputies allowing themselves to be bought off at the last moment. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, added an extra 30 trillion rubles to a new draft.

XMAS LASER BEST BUY

Brother HL-660

SAVE £180
(PREVIOUS PRICE £479 now)

- 6 pages per minute
- 600 dpi quality printing
- Superfast first page
- Straight paper path
- 200 sheet input tray
- Microfine Toner
- 2Mb memory
- Compatible with most printer emulations
- Low cost per copy
- 12 months on site warranty by manufacturer

£299
(£351.33 inc VAT)

Windows DRIVER & DOS COMPATIBLE

What to Buy for Business **BEST** Buy Laser

brother.

Brother has the best selling range of 6ppm laser printers in the UK. They offer truly high performance, an unrivalled range of features for this class of printer, and backing from Brother's excellent technical support and customer service teams.

The HL-660 has been voted Best Buy by What to Buy for Business. And it is now available from European Business Machines at an amazing price of £299 + VAT.

WE STOCK THE ENTIRE RANGE OF BROTHER PRINTERS, FAXES & WPS AT THE LOWEST PRICES

EUROPEAN BUSINESS MACHINES

184-190 High Road, Chadwell Heath, Essex RM6 6LU
Tel: 0181-599 0031 Fax: 0181-599 0034

Visitors welcome or call our TELEPHONE HOTLINE for more details

0181-599 0031

OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM-5PM

Youth's murderer 'lied in court for Winnie Mandela'

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE MANDELA'S tainted past is back under the spotlight after the convicted child murderer Jerry Richardson, one-time head of her notorious Soweto vigilante gang, claimed in an interview at the weekend that he had lied under oath and now intended to tell all.

Richardson, the former coach of the "Mandela United football club", is serving a life sentence for killing Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, 14, the Soweto youth murdered in 1989 after being beaten up at Mrs Mandela's house in the township. In an interview with *City Press*, a newspaper with a largely black readership, he described himself as the "forgotten man" and spoke of his plans to testify about crimes before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which is investigating apartheid era atrocities.

Under a headline "I lied to save Winnie", Richardson said: "They [the commission] must let me give evidence and I will tell all."

His allegations are serious because they conflict with previous accounts of who was involved in the notorious case. Mandela United was formed in the late 1980s as a personal vigilante gang to protect Mrs Mandela, and Richardson, appointed its leader, was convicted of murdering Stompie.

He was one of four youths who were suspected of being police informers who were kidnapped by him and taken to Mrs Mandela's home on

December 29, 1988, for interrogation.

At Mrs Mandela's subsequent trial in 1991, when she was convicted on four counts of kidnapping, the judge found that she had authorised the kidnapping but that she was not at home for the assault. But the circumstances of the kidnapping and murder have remained a subject of contention.

Richardson's counsel admitted during his trial that he had lied to protect Mrs Mandela. Three years ago, in another interview with *City Press*, he said he would never betray Mrs Mandela, a woman he loved. But prompted by bitterness — she has never visited him in prison — and the prospect that he may be able to obtain amnesty through the truth commission for his past crimes, he has decided to speak out.

Recalling the horrific murder, he said several people were involved in the brutal interrogation of Stompie over four days, at the end of which the youth's face was so swollen he could not speak. He said a group of them took the boy to open veld where he cut his throat with a knife. Richardson said some of those involved in the murder are now in government and another member of the football club is in the South African National Defence Force. He also mentioned how his co-accused, Jubulani Kubbeka, was granted amnesty by the former Government.

The truth commission now has powers to grant amnesty for political crimes committed with a political motive and Richardson has been encouraged by recent developments surrounding successful applications by convicted killers. Brian Mitchell, one of apartheid's most notorious killer policemen, walked free from prison this month after serving just four years of a 30-year sentence for 11 murders after the commission agreed that his crimes were politically motivated. To obtain amnesty applicants must make full disclosure and express remorse for their crimes.

Richardson, whose earlier death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment, said he regretted killing the youth and now realised that he had not been an informer.



Winnie Mandela: sees plot to tarnish her image

Colombia holds Britons over £30m cocaine haul on yacht

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI, SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

THREE Britons have been accused of trying to smuggle cocaine worth an estimated \$50 million (£30 million) from Colombia's northern port of Barranquilla in a luxury yacht named *Perla Mar*.

Michael Hayne, his son Alan and David Maurice Shaw were arrested at the Caribbean port on Friday evening and were yesterday being questioned by the local anti-drugs police which works closely with agents of the US Drugs Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Police found 427lb of best-quality cocaine stashed in the cupboards and hidden under the floorboards of the US-registered yacht which the three men were crewing. "We found cocaine worth at least \$50 million on their yacht. We

do not know where it was destined for, or whether those arrested are a part of a larger ring of traffickers," said General José Rosso Serrano, chief of Colombia's anti-drugs police. General Rosso is famous for capturing the top bosses of the Cali drugs cartel who had long masterminded 80 per cent of the world's cocaine trade.

The Britons are being held at the port city's El Bosque prison and are expected to face questioning over the next few days.

A police spokesman said that Mr Shaw had apparently entered Colombia on various occasions and that Mr Hayne had crossed into the country from Venezuela but did not have valid customs entry stamps.

Barranquilla is a notorious drugs port. Only two months ago police seized the biggest cargo of cocaine to be captured just a few miles offshore, when they boarded a Honduras-registered fishing trawler which had seven tonnes of cocaine hidden in rotting fish.

Colombia's anti-drugs police have in the past year stepped up the anti-drugs war, and started clamping down on traffickers who use a common route across the Caribbean to the United States. It is all part of a wider plan by President Samper, who has given way to American pressure after he was accused of accepting \$6 million from the Cali drugs cartel towards funding his 1994 election campaign.

US 'palace coup' put Annan at UN helm

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE phenomenon is familiar to many members of the United Nations. A superpower ousts the head of state and installs the army commander in his place. The difference this time is that the scenario was played out not in a far-off banana republic but at UN headquarters in New York.

Kofi Annan's appointment as the next UN Secretary-General, due to be confirmed by the General Assembly tomorrow, is the result of an American-sponsored "palace coup" aimed at mending the organisation's battered relations with Washington.

The UN, of course, does not have its own army, but the courtly Mr Annan, an American-educated Ghanaian, ran its closest equivalent, the department of peacekeeping operations, which at its height had 75,000 troops in the field.

For the Americans, Boutros Boutros Ghali had proved a troublesome UN chief. Despite all the talk emanating from Washington about UN reform, it was the huge UN peacekeeping missions in Somalia and Bosnia that led to his downfall. He alienated the American Right by appearing to order US troops into battle in Somalia, and offended the Left by trying to prevent US airstrikes in Bosnia.

Mr Annan was by his boss's side the whole time, but avoided the blame entirely. Identified early as a "rising star", Mr Annan's spectacular ascent through the ranks in recent years owed much to American support. Holding an economics degree from Malacoste College, Minnesota, and a master's in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mr Annan was well qualified to assume senior UN budgetary positions at a time when Washington was seeking thorough UN reform.

When the United States wanted to transfer its peacekeeping mission in Somalia to UN command in 1993, Mr Annan was promoted to the head of the peacekeeping department. He also served, at Washington's behest, as the special UN envoy in Bosnia during the transition from the UN mission to the current Nato-led force.

Dr Boutros Ghali's inner circle became increasingly paranoid about Mr Annan emerging as a pretender to the Secretary-General's throne. Diplomats say that earlier this year Dr Boutros Ghali summoned his peacekeeping chief to ask him whether he was seeking the top UN job.

Mr Annan routinely denied that he was interested in the post, and scrupulously avoided any hint of disloyalty. He got the job anyway.



Rwandan Hutus cross the Rusumo Falls bridge as they make the long trek home

Arafat hits back at Netanyahu charge

FROM ROSS DUNN FROM JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, yesterday both gave warnings of the risk of violent confrontation and blamed each other for raising tensions in the Middle East.

"We have solid information that Palestinians are preparing for a new wave of violence," Mr Netanyahu told Israel Radio, referring to the September riots which left 86 people dead. The Israeli leader was speaking after his Cabinet's decision last week to provide financial incentives to Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza strip.

Mr Netanyahu accused Mr Arafat's Palestinian Authority of having no real interest in the peace negotiations and said the Palestinians only

wanted to impose their demands. They included a reduction in the overall size of the Jewish State and a division of Jerusalem into two capitals.

Mr Arafat said in Gaza City that Mr Netanyahu was simply trying to divert attention from his settlements decision. In an interview with the Israeli newspaper, *Yediot Aharonot*, Mr Arafat said the announcement was "a time bomb". He said: "Soon we will not be able to stop the downward slide and once we have counted up the dead we will be back where we started."

He dismissed any idea of meeting Mr Netanyahu at this stage. "What would be the use? Mr Arafat asked. "Everybody blames him [Mr Netanyahu] but he carries on."

Corsican towns hit in guerrilla raids

Paris Bombs and gunfire raked Corsica at the weekend when suspected separatists fired from a car at a paramilitary barracks in Bastia, on the Mediterranean island's northern tip (Susan Bell writes). No one was injured in yesterday's pre-dawn raid which left 16 bullet holes in the building's facade.

As the gunmen drove off, they fired at an electricity office. So far no one has claimed responsibility for the attack, but it is believed to be the work of the outlawed Corsican National Liberation Front. Yesterday afternoon a bomb went off in Borgo, near Bastia, damaging a public works company.

New Gulf War 'victims'

Veterans from the Czech Republic Army claim to be suffering "Gulf War syndrome" (Michael Evans writes). The soldiers, from a specialist unit which was responsible for "sniffing out" signs of chemical warfare during the 1991 Gulf War, claim they have had a range of illnesses, including chronic fatigue, hair and teeth loss and severe headaches. Britain and America are investigating claims that thousands of their soldiers are suffering from Gulf War syndrome.

Serious role for actor

Bucharest: Among the leading ministers in the new Government sworn in by Romania's President Emil Constantinescu, is Ion Caramitru, right, a former actor (Sean Hillen writes). Mr Caramitru, who was in the recent film *Mission Impossible* with Tom Cruise, has been named Minister of Culture. He joined the Romanian delegation to the Dublin summit at the weekend.



Russia warns Chechens

Moscow: Russian officials warned Chechen separatists that the capture of 22 Russian soldiers could halt Moscow's military withdrawal from the region, the RIA news agency said. About 65 Chechens seized the Russians on Saturday, near the Dagestan-Chechnya border. Anatoli Shirko, commander of the Russian Interior Ministry forces, was reported to have said: "The incident had 'seriously complicated the withdrawal of Russian troops'." (Reuters)

38 die in Somali battle

Mogadishu: At least 38 people were killed and more than 90 injured when heavy fighting erupted in the Medina district of Mogadishu, the Somali capital. The fighting, between forces of warlord Hussein Muhammad Aidid and those of rival faction leaders Osman Hassan Ali Amo and Musa Sidi Yalahow, followed a series of clashes last week in the same area. Residents said the fighting began when the Aidid contingent began to loot the main market. (Reuters)

Threat to kill prince

Phnom Penh: Hun Sen, the Cambodian Co-Prime Minister, threatened to shoot down any airliner that brought the exiled Prince Norodom Sirivudh back to Phnom Penh. The half-brother of King Sihanouk, who went into exile in France after allegedly plotting to assassinate Mr Hun Sen, is now determined to return home. Mr Hun Sen said he would only allow Prince Sirivudh to return safely if King Sihanouk pardoned the prince. (Reuters)

Historians vote Clinton less than average leader

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE first Schlesinger poll of leading American historians in more than a decade concluded yesterday that Bill Clinton and his two Republican predecessors were less than average Presidents of the United States.

The ranking, first introduced in 1948 by Arthur Schlesinger, the Harvard historian, was this year accompanied by an interpretation by his son, Arthur Schlesinger Jr., also an historian and a former adviser to President Kennedy.

The younger Schlesinger concluded that Mr Clinton was a highly skilled politician who lacked self-discipline. The President's judgment of people was erratic and the historian deemed Mr Clinton flagrantly opportunistic in his political decisions.

"He rushes to propitiate the audience before him, often at his own expense. His scandals and cover-ups are ripe for exploitation by a vindictive opposition," Mr Schlesinger wrote in *The New York Times*, where the poll was published. "Who can tell how this combination of talents and infirmities will play out? Clinton's

second term offers at once the potential of greatness and the potential of humiliation."

The Schlesinger poll asked a jury of 32 luminaries, including Mario Cuomo, the former Governor of New York, and Doris Kearns Goodwin, the presidential historian, to place every American leader in one of five categories — great, near great, average, below average and failure — based on White House performance. Mr Clinton gained 17 average votes.



Lincoln: acclaimed as the best President

two near greats, two failures and five below average.

President Reagan — who by comparison received seven near greats, 11 average votes, nine below average and four failures — was ranked lower than President Bush, who had 16 average, 12 below average and one failure. All three joined a list including Madison, Taft, Ford and Carter as average (low).

Lincoln, as in past Schlesinger polls, was regarded by scholars as the best President in history. He was joined by Washington and Franklin Roosevelt as the only three greats. Jefferson, Truman, Wilson and Teddy Roosevelt were among the near greats. Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson were included in the average (high) category.

With his domestic policy likely to be hampered by a Republican Congress, Mr Clinton's chances of achieving a better rating in the next scholarly survey appear slim. Mr Schlesinger recommended that he concentrate a second term on an agenda abroad, including renewed commitment to peace in Ireland, the Middle East and Bosnia.

Rifkind tries to kickstart Cyprus peace talks

MALCOLM RIFKIND, the Foreign Secretary, begins talks in Cyprus today with the leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities in an attempt to nudge forward one of the world's most intractable peace negotiations (Michael Binyon writes).

He will have a working breakfast with President Clerides, and then travel across the green line in Nicosia to meet Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, in

an attempt to end the 20-year stalemate on the divided island. It will be the first time for a generation that a British Foreign Secretary has held talks on both sides of the dividing line.

During his two-day visit Mr Rifkind will urge the two communities to define their minimum security requirements as well as the areas over which they have previously been close to agreement. Britain is not proposing a new blueprint,

nor does Mr Rifkind see his visit as a spectacular new British initiative. However, with two important sovereign bases on the island as well as British troops serving with UN forces along the green line, Britain's influence in its former colony is still considerable. The Foreign Secretary hopes permanent members of the UN Security Council will concentrate on the stalled UN plan for a two-zone federated state.

Cheaper
Car
Insurance

ADMIRAL
Call now
0800 690 800

UNBEATABLE
LONDON BREAKS

BED AND FULL TRADITIONAL BREAKFAST FROM

£29

PER PERSON PER NIGHT

ONLY IF YOU BOOK BEFORE 24 DECEMBER '96

WEST END Regent Palace Hotel*	£29
HEATHROW Forte Crest Heathrow†	£40
KENSINGTON The Kensington Close	£40
WEST END Hotel Russell	£43
WEST END Forte Posthouse Bloomsbury	£43
REGENT'S PARK Forte Posthouse Regent's Park	£43
HEATHROW Forte Posthouse Heathrow†	£43
HEATHROW The Excelsior†	£45
WEST END Strand Palace	£45
WEST END Saint Georges Hotel*	£47
WEST END The Cumberland Hotel	£47
WEST END The Cavendish	£50
WEST END The Westbury*	£55
COVENT GARDEN The Waldorf Meriden	£85
WEST END Grosvenor House*	£90
WEST END Le Meridien Piccadilly	£95

* minimum stay of 2 nights † Monday-Thursday only

Ask your hotel
about special lunch/dinner
deals

* Prices are per person per night including
accommodation, full traditional breakfast & VAT at
17.5% based on 2 adults sharing a twin/double room.

* Single supplement charge applicable - please ask
reservation agents for details.

Offer available until 26 January 1997

FORTE
HOTELS

To book, see your travel agent or call quoting reference P108E

0345 40 40 40

* Breaks must be taken between 20 December 1996 and 26 January 1997 (excluding 24-31 December 1996). † Excluding 29-31 December 1996 only. * Offer available to UK residents only. † Private bathrooms are not available at the Regent Palace Hotel. * All reservations are subject to availability with a limited number of rooms available at these promotional rates. * These offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or special promotion.

New superconductor hope proves premature

Crossed circuits

REPORTS last week that French scientists had discovered a superconductor which operates at room temperature stirred a brief flurry of excitement, but appear to have been premature. The evidence they have gathered is interesting, but falls a long way short of proof, while the release of the data before publication has caused embarrassment. The French Academy of Sciences, to whose *Proceedings* the paper had been submitted, is meeting today to decide whether to release the paper to the press early.

The material involved is lithium beryllium hydride (LiBeH₃), better known as a potential rocket fuel. Last week's reports emerged after a member of the team gave a talk attended by a reporter from a French provincial paper. The story was picked up by Reuters and spread around the world. But later Dr Alain Mauger of Paris University, one of the scientists involved, conceded that the team had not even measured the conductivity of the hydride. "We have no proof at all that this compound is a superconductor," he said. "We are scandalised by the alerting of the press before our paper is even accepted."

The team, which includes researchers from the National Institute of Applied Science in Lyons, the Atomic Energy Commission in Paris and the National Centre of Scientific Research in Meudon, have found magnetic anomalies suggestive of superconductivity. At roughly room temperature (25C) the powdered hydride



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

exhibited an unusual effect, called magnetic irreversibility, in which its magnetic properties changed in a manner dependent on an external magnetic field. This effect is also seen in copper oxide-based superconductors at the temperatures at which they become superconductors.

In addition, the French team measured a change in the specific heat of the compound at the critical temperature, something that is also seen in established superconductors. So far, they have not actually measured the electrical resistance or shown that it falls to zero at the critical temperature.

and there are reasons to doubt that it does. The notion that lithium beryllium hydride might be a superconductor was first suggested about ten years ago by Dr Albert Overhauser of Purdue University, in Indiana, but attempts to prove it by Dr Paul Chu at the University of Houston failed.

The implications of a room temperature superconductor are hard to overstate. All electrical resistance disappears, enabling the construction of highly-efficient machines and loss-free transmission lines. All proven superconductors work at such low temperatures that they require constant cooling. A room temperature superconductor would be a real revolution.

The powder studied by the French team would not be suitable for power cables, but might be used in electronic circuits, where it could be applied in thin layers. Assuming, of course, that it works.

Pollutants that may lead to impotence

WORRIES about gender-bending chemicals in the environment will be heightened by experiments recently reported to the American Society for Cell Biology. Dr Fredric Booktor and Dr Charles Blake of the University of South Carolina injected rats three times weekly with 20mg of oestrogen, an ingredient used in textile manufacture and commonly found in the environment.

The rats showed a roughly four-fold increase in sperm abnormalities and a 50 per cent decrease in sperm count after a month of treatment. After two months, the animals' reproductive organs were shrivelled and unable to produce any sperm at all. The amounts of the chemical injected are roughly comparable with the levels found in the fatty tissue of fish in some polluted US rivers.

Whether such chemicals have anything to do with changes in human health, such as diminishing counts and the increase in testicular cancer, remains a matter of controversy. But Dr Booktor says: "Things like this could be contributing to the decline in human reproductive potential."

Pressure theory skates on thin ice



EVERYBODY knows that skates slide on ice because the pressure of the blades melts the surface layer. Except that they don't. "It doesn't work out," says Dr Michel van Hove, of Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in California. "You put data in the formula, and there's not enough pressure."

So why is ice slippery? According to Dr van Hove and his colleague Dr Gabor Somorjai, it is because the surface layer is always molten. Though bound firmly to the solid layers of ice beneath, the molecules in the top layer vibrate three or four times faster than those in the ice proper. The team, whose results are soon to appear in the journal *Surface Science*, bombarded the surface of ice with electrons, expecting to see a diffraction signature for the first three layers of ice molecules. They were puzzled when they saw only two, but decided this was because the molecules in the top layer were vibrating so hard the signal was blurred.

The findings, says Dr Steve George of the University of Colorado, "illustrates how we don't understand the simplest things."



The computer model will reflect several aspects of ageing; practice, for instance, preserves cognitive ability — exercising the brain keeps it young

Old grey matter test

As people grow old, some appear able to remain reasonably lucid while others show clear signs of losing their faculties. Anjana Ahuja reports on a project to discover why

You will find it harder to remember your new year resolutions next year. You will not have felt it, but some of your brain cells have died and their demise has led to subtle rearrangements in the complex web of links that allow you to think, feel and recall.

In simple terms, your brain has aged. The effects may be imperceptible from one year to the next, but by the time we slide into old age, our mental faculties have dwindled noticeably. However, one aspect of growing older has always mystified experts — just as a few lucky individuals retain the beauty of their youth, why do some people remain more lucid than others?

Psychologists at the universities of Birmingham and Manchester have embarked on an ambitious project to find out. They plan to simulate the effects of ageing on the human brain. The "brain" under study is a computer model built from hundreds of processing units. Each unit represents a neuron, or brain cell. The units are interconnected in a neural network. This is a sophisticated breed of computer algorithm which allows a model to learn from past experience, just as a human being does. Thus, the artificial brain mimics, in a simplified way, the human brain. Ageing is simple — just prune the number of connections to simulate cell death.

Neural networks also allow different tasks to be carried out by different parts of the network. Again, there are parallels with the human brain — different mental abilities age at different rates and in different ways. Many studies show that specific mental skills are associated with specific brain regions. But this is no whimsical exercise in artificial intelligence.

To make it realistic, the model must be able to mirror the trends shown by real people, which can be gleaned from past studies. The model will also be pitted against a group of elderly volunteers.

The computer model will have to reflect several well-known aspects of ageing. The first is that cognitive ability declines ever more steeply as we get older. The second is that as we age the variation in mental ability, between people

arranged in patterns. By looking through many examples, the volunteers learnt to recognise the patterns, or "artificial grammar", hidden in the letters. They were then shown letter sequences that either complied with or broke these grammatical rules.

When asked to repeat the test some time later, older participants could recall the rules, and therefore still complete the task, but could not remember whether they had

seen specific examples before. "The volunteers seemed to have an implicit understanding of these artificial rules and were able to judge grammar, but couldn't recall where it came from," Professor Humphreys says.

This finding has straightforward comparisons — we seem to be hard-wired for language, in that our capacity to communicate does not diminish greatly with age. Language is an example of what experts call a crystallised ability — once we have learnt it, it hardens or crystallises in our brain.

These are distinct from so-called fluid abilities. "These relate to thinking on your feet," Professor Humphreys says. "As we get older, fluid abilities become more problematic; we are hoping that the model will capture that. It might even shed light on why language is crystallised rather than fluid."

However, the distinction between these two types of

mental ability has aroused great debate. Even though language is classed as a crystallised ability, some aspects do suffer as we mature. For example, an older person may take longer to retrieve a word from memory; even though the vocabulary is still there, information processing speed or working memory capacity has dwindled.

Some psychologists have suggested that one of these qualities — either information processing speed or memory capacity — is the master skill which decays with age, and this primary deterioration leads to decline in all cognitive abilities. This notion of a master skill fits with the finding that people with higher IQs age better, mentally speaking, than their low IQ counterparts.

Psychologists also hope to find evidence for one encouraging feature of ageing — that practising cognitive skills keeps them in shape. They will test this theory in the artificial brain by "weighting" neurons according to how much they are used. Neurons with low weights will be selectively killed off. Well used neurons, such as those dealing with language, will have higher weights, and therefore resist pruning.

If the pattern of performance by the artificial brain matches that shown by the volunteers, Professor Humphreys notes, it will be empirical evidence that a few brain-teasers a day can help to keep mental decline at bay.

Our brains seem to be hard-wired for language

Having a hell of a good time

In a computerised world, the writer Kurt Vonnegut still enjoys using paper, pencils and a typewriter

IN an interview with Kurt Vonnegut in the November issue of *Inc. Technology*, he was asked to discuss his feelings about living in an increasingly computerised world.

I work at home, and if I wanted to, I could have a computer right by my bed, and I'd never have to leave it. But I use a typewriter, and afterwards I mark up the pages with a pencil. Then I call up this woman named Carol out in Woodstock and say: "Are you still doing typing?" Sure she is, and her husband is trying to track bluebirds out there and not having much luck, and so we chit-chat back and forth, and I say, "Okay, I'll send you the pages."

Then I go down the steps and my wife calls, "Where are you going?" "Well," I say, "I'm going to buy an envelope."

And she says, "You're not a poor man. Why don't you buy a thousand envelopes? They'll deliver them, and you can put them in the closet." And I say, "Hush." So I go to this newsstand across the street where they sell magazines and lottery tickets and stationery. I have to get in line because there are people buying candy and all that sort of thing, and I talk to them.

The woman behind the counter has a jewel between her eyes, and when it's my turn, I ask her if there have been any big winners lately. I get my envelope and seal it up and go to the postal convenience center down the block at the corner of 47th Street and 2nd Avenue, where I'm secretly in love with the woman behind the counter. I never let her know how I feel about her. One time I had my

pocket picked in there and got to meet a cop and tell him about it. Anyway, I address the envelope to Carol in Woodstock. I stamp the envelope and mail it in a mailbox in front of the post office, and I go home.

And I've had a hell of a good time. I tell you, we are here on Earth to fart around, and don't let anybody tell you any different.



Shopping trip: Vonnegut

What my older brother said about "IMPOTENCE"

People who suffer from it get fed up. Just thinking about it makes it worse. And many prescribed drugs have adverse effects. But there are qualified people who now specialise in treating this embarrassing condition. I found them, he said, at The Medical Centre in Weymouth Street, London W1M 3SA. Call them on 0171 637 2038, now!

Buy Now, Pay June Next Year

£999.93 inc. VAT

£851 + VAT

Guaranteed 2 DAY PRE-CHRISTMAS DELIVERY

Unbeatable!

- 3 Easy Ways to Pay
- 16Mb RAM; 256k Cache
- P150+ Processor
- 10800Mb Hard Disk
- Fast 64-bit Graphics & MPEG
- Full CD Multimedia
- Massive Software Bundle
- Quicken Personal Finance
- FREE Fax/Internet Modem

Other Options

- Leopard 1600 Colour Super Printer
- Leopard 1600 Colour Super Printer
- Leopard 1600 Colour Super Printer

System Options

- P150+ Processor
- P150+ Processor
- P150+ Processor

Offer Ends 18th DEC

Place Your Order Now

Three Ways to Pay

1. Pay With Order
2. Pay With Credit Card
3. Pay With 24 Months

0% interest

198%

01282 777 111

TODAY IN THE TIMES • GREAT SEASON OF SPORT

TRYING TIMES

England's stumbling win over Argentina raises yet more questions: David Hands reports PAGE 31

DOWNHILL RACERS

Austria to the fore as the ski season opens in Val d'Isère PAGE 25

FOUR FOR FOWLER

Premiership reports PAGE 27

SNOW REPORTS START TODAY

PAGE 24

TIME TO GO, BOWE

Srikumar Sen calls time on a boxing career PAGE 24

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY DECEMBER 16 1996

ZIMBABWE STRIKE ANOTHER EMBARRASSING ONE-DAY BLOW

England signal a lack of flair

FROM SIMON WILDE IN BULAWAYO

BULAWAYO (Zimbabwe won toss): Zimbabwe beat England by two wickets

ANOTHER hand played, another trick lost. England were beaten for the third time in 15 days on their tour of Zimbabwe when they met their hosts' national side in the first one-day international here at Queens Sports Club yesterday and lost a tense, absorbing contest by two wickets with 25 balls to spare. The result was narrow, but it flattered them greatly.

Shortly after the finish, however, Michael Atherton, the England captain, dismissed the outcome of the game — which gave Zimbabwe their third win in four meetings with England, a remarkable record for a country that has only won eight out of 63 such matches in its history — as having any relevance to the Test series between the teams starting on Wednesday. If only he were right.

He preferred to describe Zimbabwe's startling one-day record against England as a "jinx".

If only he were right about that, too. Zimbabwe added to the defeats by a President's XI and Mashonaland early this month not because they are more talented, but because they are more determined, as they showed at every turn yesterday. They also have the

England's magic spell 24

tireless work and thoughtful preparation of David Houghton and Alistair Campbell, respectively Zimbabwe's player-coach and captain.

Houghton said on the eve of this match that if Zimbabwe could bowl a tight line England would not have the flair to score the necessary runs. His bowlers did not let him down and he was proved right. England, put in, began brightly and were 40 for one after nine overs but their innings soon withered and they were all out for 152 with 26 balls unused. They forced a good rearguard action, having Zimbabwe 106 for seven at one point, but such a paltry total is as good as indefensible in one-day cricket.

Atherton appeared to be at the heart of England's flair by-pass. After Knight and Stewart were removed by the combative Streak, he found himself unable to get the ball away from a pitch that only helped the bowlers early in the day. He did not score his first run for 24 balls and, in all, spent 77 balls making 23.

Admittedly he had no sooner come in than he lost Thorpe, seriously promoted ahead of Hussain to No 4 and bowled by an inswinger from Brandes, essaying a loose drive. He and Hussain, who would stay for the remainder of the innings for an unbeaten 49, thus had to begin a rebuilding process, slinging — they thought — for a total of around 200. Faced with bowlers who were disciplined and using the silver ball imaginatively, England chose their shots badly, however, and that target had to be regularly revised downwards until, in the end, they were grateful to reach 150.

That Zimbabwe made such hard work of overhauling England's total had less to do with the pitch than some fiery bowling at the start of the innings from Silverwood, who made an impres-



Gough, typifying the brittleness of the England batting when under pressure, is run out by Flower while yards short of making his ground. Photograph: Howard Burditt

sive international debut, and in the middle of it from Gough and Mullally. More important still was their own fear of chasing runs in limited-overs cricket.

Though Atherton had a poor game as a batsman — he should not have even lasted as long as he did as an electrical failure deprived the umpires access to television replays, which would have shown him run out on 15 — he enjoyed a good day as captain and deployed his forces well in difficult circumstances.

His decision to withdraw Croft, who had been punished by Waller, the pinch-hitter who actually batted sensibly through 29 overs for 48, and recall Gough when Houghton — a good player of spin — came in worked perfectly,

Houghton chipping to Crawley in the covers.

From then on Zimbabwe started to give away wickets as prodigiously as England. They appeared to lose heart, as well they might, Campbell having damaged a finger on his right hand and gashed a cheek when colliding with Guy Whittall during pre-match practice. They spent most of the day trying to beat England with ten men, Campbell not intending to bat unless necessary.

It became necessary when Zimbabwe were 97 for five and he duly came in and played the innings that decided the match. An unbeaten 32 that won him the man-of-the-match award. He was given valuable help by Streak, who put on 31 with him for the eighth wicket

and saw off Gough. With Silverwood and Mullally already bowled out, the most dangerous of England's bowlers were then finished.

When England reflect on this disheartening defeat they must also ask themselves whether they chose the right team. Caddick and Tufnell were omitted rather than Irani, who was put through a fitness test shortly before the game. He actually bowled reasonably enough, but did not really threaten to take wickets and taking wickets was, in the event, England's only escape route. Such strategic thoughts might occupy Ian Botham, their unofficial motivational guru, who arrived here on Saturday and helped the bowlers prepare yesterday.

SCOREBOARD FROM BULAWAYO

ENGLAND		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28 (Stewart 15), 2-41 (Atherton 0), 3-47 (Atherton 0), 4-96 (Hussain 23), 5-124 (Hussain 30), 6-134 (Hussain 42), 7-134 (Hussain 42), 8-135 (Hussain 43), 9-150 (Hussain 48)	
N V Knight bow b Streak	13	10-16-0 (2-11-3); Streak 9-1-30-0 (nb 5, w 1; 2 runs, 6-11-5-2, 3-0-15-1); Whittall 5-0-17-0 (nb 1; 1 four; one spell); Streak 9-4-1-27-1 (1 four, 7-0-24-0, 2-4-1-3-1); G W Flower 5-0-17-1 (one spell)	
1A J Stewart c A Flower b Streak	26		
(45min, 33 balls, 4 fours)			
1A A Atherton c sub (A R Whittall)	23		
(47min, 77 balls, 2 fours)			
G P Thorpe b Brandes	1		
(14min, 10 balls)			
N Hussain not out	49		
(126min, 88 balls, 1 four)			
J P Crawley c Campbell b Rennie	10		
(22min, 20 balls, 1 four)			
R C Irani c and b Rennie	7		
(5min, 5 balls, 1 four)			
A D Mullally c and b Rennie	0		
(1min, 1 ball)			
R D B Croft c G W Flower b Streak	0		
(5min, 2 balls)			
D Gough run out (Streak/A Flower)	8		
(13min, 12 balls)			
C E W Silverwood c Houghton b Streak	1		
(8min, 13 balls)			
Extras (lb 6, w 3, nb 4)	13		
Total (45.4 overs, 187min)	152		

ZIMBABWE		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-33 (Waller 12), 2-58 (Waller 25), 3-73 (Waller 34), 4-87 (Waller 48), 5-97 (Whittall 8), 6-106 (Campbell 4), 7-106 (Campbell 4), 8-137 (Campbell 24)	
G W Flower b Silverwood	14		
(44min, 35 balls, 1 four)			
A C Waller run out (Hussain/Silverwood)	48		
(137min, 71 balls, 8 fours)			
1A Flower c Knight b Silverwood	10		
(36min, 25 balls, 1 four)			
D L Houghton c Crawley b Gough	2		
(17min, 11 balls)			
C N Evans c Stewart b Gough	1		
(18min, 8 balls)			
G J Whittall c Stewart b Mullally	13		
(33min, 29 balls, 1 four)			



If Santa Can't Deliver, We Will.

Deliver your Christmas flowers through 2,500 florists in the UK, and over 55,000 Worldwide. We're the gift of flowers this Christmas. Order direct by phone or at any florist where you see the Dove logo.

TELEFLORIST
0800 111 800

Strobl lights the way for Austrians

JOHN HOPKINS



On the men's downhill at Val d'Isère

IN SKIING, the French are going downhill fast and so are the Swiss but it is the Austrians who are going downhill fastest. In conditions of starting clarity in Val d'Isère yesterday morning, the men who bear the name The Eagle Knights on the back of their red après-ski jackets swept the board in the first downhill race of the season in Europe. Not just first and second, but first, second, third and fourth.

No sporting event of significance takes place in France without an oom-pah-pah band, clanging cowbells, crying children and barking dogs. Yet even the support of all these, plus banners bearing a likeness of his face were not sufficient to inspire Luc Alphand, the Frenchman who was world champion in 1995 and 1996, to stem the Austrian tide. The 31-year-old from Serre Chevalier finished sixth, half a second behind the winner, in a sport where half a second is half a lifetime.



Fritz Strobl races to an unexpected victory in the opening event of the European downhill season yesterday. Photograph: Philippe Wojazer

On the OK piste, a savage, steep course on the notorious Bellevue mountain, where the 1992 Olympic downhill was staged, Fritz Strobl, 24, won the men's downhill of the 41ème Critérium International de la 1ère Neige by 0.02sec from Werner Franz. He came, as they say, from nowhere, having started 43rd in a 72-strong field. Patrick Ortlieb, 18, world champion, was third, ahead of Josef Strobl (no relation).

To cognoscenti, there was little surprise in the success of the Austrians, who have such strength in depth and traditionally start the season well. What was unexpected, perhaps, was that the winning Strobl was Fritz, whose best result was sixteenth in a super-giant slalom last season, rather than Josef, the 22-year-old who won this race two years ago.

It was a day made in heaven: snow cracking under foot and cold clear air that made one's breath billow out like a spinnaker. Locals squinted up at the jagged mountains bathed in strong sunshine and said that, even for them, the weather was something special. On a day such as this, it was easy to understand why the resort where Jean-Claude Killy carved his first turns is one of the most popular in Europe.

To make it better, as much snow has already fallen in Val d'Isère as in the whole of last season — too much on occasions. A women's World Cup giant slalom race was called off on Friday and then, on Saturday, the men's downhill was abandoned after 17 racers had completed the course when a brouillard, hardly discernible to the naked eye, settled easily over the middle of the course.

Shrouded in that mist was the rivalry between Ortlieb and Alphand, which is certain to be a feature of the rest of this season's racing. All sport these days, seemingly, needs the added edge of personal rivalry as if the cut and-thrust of the sport itself is not enough. Alphand and Ortlieb are, to use a seasonal metaphor, not on each others' Christmas card lists.

"We are not great friends, to say the least," Alphand said. "I said hello the first time we met in December and that's it. I don't like the way he behaves. Showing off for him is a way to gear himself up. When he won the world championship last winter, he was happy and he showed it, but I thought he overdid it a bit. So when I start a race, the desire to beat him is a motivation for me."

On this evidence, Ortlieb and his men are going to be the sliders to beat this season. "It was not my goal to beat the others in my team," Franz, who finished second, said. "But I have been inspired by Patrick. I saw the way that he was trying to do better than past Austrian champions like Leonhard Stock and Franz Klammer. Suddenly I thought to myself, 'Let's beat Patrick', that is my spur."

The Austrians had hoped to train in Chile during the summer in Europe, but a lack of snow meant that they had to fly to New Zealand instead. They spent the past autumn skiing on glaciers in Austria which happily for them provided them with powdery conditions that were similar to those for yesterday's race.

Double reverse for Rolph

FROM CRAIG LORD, IN ROSTOCK, GERMANY

THE cheers had barely faded after Susan Rolph's victory in the 200 metres medley than a sporting bureaucracy that apparently knows no bounds brought the European short-course championships to an acrimonious end last night. British celebrations of Mark Foster's victory in the 50 metres freestyle (22.25sec) and Rolph's equalling of a 15-year-old European record were cut short after the European Swimming League decided not to award Rolph the £25,000 prize (about £2,000) available for record-breakers, nor register her name as European record holder.

The farce began after Rolph, 18, ploughed ahead of Germany's Sabine Herbst to stop the clock at 2min 10.60sec, her best time by two seconds, and which equaled the European "best time" set in January 1982 by Petra Schneider of East Germany and also equaled the "standard time" set by the League in 1990, when short course times became officially recognised as records.

Paul-Harm Beyer, the League secretary, and Nory Kruchten, the treasurer, decided not to recognise Rolph's performance, instead sticking by the letter of a rule that says best times must be "bettered" before the prize can be given or the record recognised.

In an effort to hide their blushes, the League awarded Rolph, who won the 100m medley on Saturday, a leather jacket for the best women's performance of the championships even though that accolade should clearly have gone to Sandra Völker, who missed the world 100 metres freestyle record by 0.03 sec.

Deryk Snelling, at his first international as Britain's director of performance, said the decision was "a bit of a disappointment". Nothing, however, could detract from Britain's success at these inaugural championships. The national team finishing second to Germany (with 14 titles) on the medal table with four gold, four silver, and two bronze medals. Two of the silver medals went to Ian Wilson (1500 metres freestyle) and Andrew Clayton (200 metres freestyle) on Saturday.

Foster's freestyle win, which followed another in the 50m butterfly on Saturday, confirmed him as the most successful short-course sprinter in the world. He added a bronze medal to his tally as a member of the 4x50 metres medley relay with Clayton, Neil Willey and Richard Madden.

BASKETBALL

Boone plunges Giants into free fall

BY NICHOLAS HARTING

SOMETHING stirred among the strugglers on Saturday when two of the Budweiser League's lowly clubs distinguished themselves by upsetting Manchester Giants and Leicester Riders, who still entertain title aspirations, albeit on fainter ones.

The 85-82 defeat of the Giants by Thames Valley Tigers was marginally more surprising than the 91-83 loss suffered on Leicester by Worcester Bears, since the Riders were missing not only Bob Debold, their coach, but also one of their key players.

Thames Valley and James Williams had produced the hard work for Tigers, in losing Frankie Edwards and Matt Perry to 12 points between them, when up stepped Waymon Boone to win the match for Thames Valley from the free-throw line. Three times in the last 65 seconds he was fouled and three times he sank the two throws.

"It was almost as if I needed the extra pressure," Boone said. "It was total concentration, boy."

The 22 points of Williams and Holley's 26, had earlier given the Tigers the initiative. Improving on a pre-interval surge of 14-3, they led 60-46 only for Mark Robinson (23 points) to set a rousing example for Michael Brown. Dispatching five three-pointers, Brown collected 21 points to put the Giants in front at 80-75. "It was very frustrating

Robidoux fails to cash in on total clearance

FROM PHIL YATES IN OSNABRÜCK

ALAIN ROBIDOUX trailed Ronnie O'Sullivan 5-3 after the first session of the best-of-17-frame German Open final yesterday, despite installing himself as an overwhelming favourite to collect a £5,000 bonus with a 145 total clearance in the seventh frame.

That run superseded the 142 with which O'Sullivan completed his 6-1 semi-final victory over Nigel Bond as the highest break of the tournament's televised phase. It also eclipsed the 144 break from Stephen Hendry in the 1993 Asian Open, as the best witnessed outside Great Britain when ranking points have been at stake.

Yet Robidoux left the arena with mixed emotions after failing to capitalise on the least effective performance from O'Sullivan during a week which has seen him re-emerge as the most serious threat to Hendry's continued dominance of the game.

O'Sullivan, whose attitude and approach have shown an appreciable improvement this season, won a scrappy opener, but temporarily lost his way and should have found himself 3-1 adrift. Robidoux, attempting to become the first Canadian to prevail in an important tournament since Bob Chaperon won the British Open in 1990, potted the pink to a middle pocket for 2-1, and was in control in the fourth frame until snookering himself on the yellow.

Twice Robidoux found it impossible to escape and O'Sullivan eventually cleared the colours to pink for 2-2. Dedicated, Robidoux offered the best day for British cross country since the four home nations were forced to compete as one from 1988. It shades the 1992 world championships, when Paula Radcliffe won the junior title and the senior men claimed the team bronze medals.

On a muddy course, Brown, 25, looked at home, although keeping up with where home actually is for him requires regular checking. Born in Bridgend, raised in Sheffield, university-educated at Iowa, he moved to Duisburg 18 months ago, but has lived in a suburb of Vancouver since September. After finishing a disappointing tenth in the Olympic 10,000 metres, having developed a cold the day before the final, Brown began only last month to step up his training.

Grey days illuminated by colourful outbursts

Warm thoughts of open fires and toasted teacakes are helping to keep Lucy Duncan going through the worst of the BT Global Challenge

and wet, and "off watches" when my warm, slightly damp, sleeping bag beckons and provides a brief haven from the icy winds and spray on deck.

So far we have had two gales. We have also had quite a few relatively calm days and were beginning to think that the horrors of the Southern Ocean weren't all they were cracked up to be. Then came the second gale, accompanied by blizzards and hail storms.

However, we have still not experienced the 60ft waves I have read so much about and I have the slightly uncomfortable feeling that there is a lot more in store for us. The sailing is physically very hard work, particularly when a watch involves a lot of sail changes. These watches end with us sinking into our bunks totally exhausted.

Unfortunately, these periods usually coincide with rougher seas, so sleep is somewhat sporadic. The only things stopping us regularly ending up on the floor is the strap holding us into our bunks.

Although tiring, the busy watches are, in a lot of ways, the best ones. Regular sail changes certainly keep the cold at bay. Even Chris Tibbs, the skipper, has admitted it's cold and has been seen wearing a hat. The rest of us have been wearing everything we can lay our hands on for weeks.

I haven't, as yet, found myself frightened, but I do find that my most common emotion is fury, directed at the latest icy wave that deposits itself in my face and makes every task ten times as difficult as it should be.

I'm not alone in venting my anger. A fellow crew member (actually one of the mildest mannered people you could imagine) has become renowned for the torrents of abuse he hurls at the genco (the heaviest sail) as he is trying to move it about the deck. The genco has become a universal hate object. It is hard enough to move round on dry land with three people, let alone on a heaving deck, with waves constantly coming over

the bow and trying to fill it with water. Here in the middle of the Southern Ocean it is hard to imagine everyone at home going about their normal lives. Nevertheless, I can conjure up a very clear picture in my mind — cosy sitting rooms and toasted teacakes.

Dominant Clarke takes yellow jersey

BARRIE CLARKE, the defending champion, dominated the third round of the National Trophy cycle-cross competition yesterday (Peter Bryan writes). After finishing ninth and second in the previous two rounds, he won the 6½-mile race at Leicester by 43sec and assumed the yellow jersey with one round to go, having started the day in fifth.

Clarke relieved Stuart Blunt of the overall lead when the latter finished sixth, more than two minutes in arrears. Blunt is now second in the series, which ends next month, a fortnight after the British title race in Birmingham. Manchester won the Euroleague competition at their home velodrome on Saturday by three points from London.

Knowles bounces back

BADMINTON: Peter Knowles, who lost his Scottish Open title last month, gained compensation by winning the third Friends Provident Insurance Company British grand slam tournament of the season, at Kirkham yesterday (Richard Eaton writes). Knowles, the England No 2, overcame Colin Haughton, his international colleague, with an unexpectedly easy straight-sets victory in the final, Haughton garnering only seven points in front of a disappointed home Lancashire crowd. Kelly Morgan, of Wales, beat Emma Chaffin, of England, 11-1, 11-4 in the women's final.

Britons in perfect form

ICE SKATING: Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean scored ten perfect tens as they won the world professional figure skating championship dance title for a fifth time on Saturday. Torvill and Dean, the former Olympic champions, dominated the competition in Landover, Maryland, earning four faultless marks for a laid-back jazz routine to Dave Brubeck's *Take 5*. They then earned six more tens for their playful *Hot-trick* number. Kristi Yamaguchi, of the United States, retained the women's title.

No pleasure for Britons

SHOWJUMPING: British riders failed to make an impression as Lars Nieberg logged his second win of the Volvo World Cup qualifier series in Geneva yesterday. Nieberg, from Germany, 33, rode For Pleasure to first place after a 13-horse jump-off that featured none of the British competitors. Nieberg clocked 43.64sec with the fastest of four clear rounds.

Brierley down and out

RACKETS: Al Brierley, the favourite from Winchester, lost to Charlie van der Gucht, of Radley, in the first significant upset of the opening round of the Renny Cup, the public schools championship senior singles, at the Queen's Club. Other seeds fared better; Christopher Bond, of Eton, kept his nerve to record a close, straight-sets victory over Alastair Gourlay, of Charterhouse.

ATHLETICS

Brown ends the long wait

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN CHARLEROI, BELGIUM

JON BROWN became the first British man for 21 years to collect a senior international cross country title when he won the European championship by a record margin of 35 seconds here yesterday. All this on only four hard training sessions since the Olympic Games and in a championship which he objected to when it was inaugurated in 1994.

Although the Great Britain men's team failed to secure the medals expected of them, the surprise third place achieved by the women's squad ensured the best day for British cross country since the four home nations were forced to compete as one from 1988. It shades the 1992 world championships, when Paula Radcliffe won the junior title and the senior men claimed the team bronze medals.

On a muddy course, Brown, 25, looked at home, although keeping up with where home actually is for him requires regular checking. Born in Bridgend, raised in Sheffield, university-educated at Iowa, he moved to Duisburg 18 months ago, but has lived in a suburb of Vancouver since September. After finishing a disappointing tenth in the Olympic 10,000 metres, having developed a cold the day before the final, Brown began only last month to step up his training.

44
JOIN NOW FROM
JUST £39
To join, call free now on
0800 444 445
and ask for extension 8333.
Immediate cover available.

Advance of Barnsley goes largely unnoticed

team, have begun to attract.

BARNBLEY (4-3-1-2): D Watson — N Eaden, S Davis, A de Zeeuw, J Sheridan — M Bukacinski (sub: A Moses, 58min), J Bosancic, N Reddison — C Marcello (sub: A Liddell, 79) — P Wilkinson, J Hendrie.

TRANMERE ROVERS (4-5-1): E Ntson — T Thomas, J McGreal, S Teale, G Stevens — J Morrissey (sub: A Mahon, 60), K Irons (sub: P Nynn, 81), G Brannan, L O'Brien, G Branch (sub: G Jones, 81) — J Aldridge.

Referee: G Penson



In 15 matches, they lie handily placed in the Nationwide League second division.

City went ahead in the seventh minute when Agostino headed on to Tindon's pass, bypassed Pritchard and Clark and then guided a low shot past Collett. It would have graced any World Cup tie.

Rovers flattered to deceive, even after gaining a numerical advantage when Edwards, the City defender, was sent off in the 53rd minute for his second bookable offence — a foul on Harris.

City held on doggedly and looked as though they would succeed, even after Beattie's header had hit the bar, until Beadie got it right the second time. Then came the crowd trouble: a disappointing day for City, in many ways.

BRISTOL CITY (4-2-2) S Newley — C Blackmore, R Edwards, J Taylor, D Bernard — J Agostino, J Tindon, J Pritchard, J Clark, J Edwards, M Nugent, P Hewitt, B Thornton — J Gossler, G. Gossler.

ROVERS (4-2-2) S A. Collett — D Pritchard, W Clark (sub J Edwards, S.B. Johnson), L Mann — M Hayfield (sub J. Gossler), J. Gossler, J. Gossler, J. Gossler, J. Gossler (sub J. Archer), S.B. — J Harris, P. Hewitt.

D.C.

OXFORD UNITED (4-4-2) P Whitehead-L, Robinson M Elliott, D Furse, M Kelly J Seauchamp, D O'Brien, R Walker, S Walker, A Waddell, N Jamieson, M Aldridge (substituted D Rush, 75).

SHEFFIELD UNITED (4-4-3) A Kelly - P Pfister, D Brown, G Hogg, C Bannister, J McEneaney, R Spence, L Spence, Louis A Scott, 80, M Patterson, P Simpson, T Taylor, K Walker, 37, P Kirkcaldy.

the referee, could have sent off all the players. Away from the general brawling, Adwirthy and Polston were having a no-holds barred wrestling match all of their own. Only Tuttle was seen to distance himself from the affray, although one or two most noticeably Gunn, appeared to be trying to stop the fighting.

"The usual handbags," Walker scoffed. Bassett was none too impressed, either. "Let's not get carried away by a few players pushing each other," he said. "It was more like kids throwing their toys out of the pram."

It was a shame that the match ended as it did, because it was a cracking contest. Shipperley put Palace ahead in the third minute and they should have thrived on it in front by half-time, but Norwich changed their system by pushing Newman into midfield and got their reward in the 71st minute when an Adams free kick kicked around the goalmouth like a pinball before finishing up in the back of the net.

NORWICH CITY (4-4-2). B. Gunn — D. Johnson, J. Newman, J. Polston, D. Miles — N. Adams, A. Satchell, C. Eccles, P. Higgs, J. R. Green, G. Straker, R. Stone.

CRESTAL PALACE (3-5-2). C. Day — D. Tuttle, A. Smith, M. O'Brien, J. Wainwright, J. Hoggins, J. Houghton, R. Quarr, Paul G. Davies, D. M., K. Muscat — S. Dyer (left), D. Redmond, Rob. H. Shipperley

Burnley's home form, embracing six successive victories in the league, had taken them to fifth place in the Nationwide League second division. Burnley brought a new aura of optimism with rather more to spare than the scoreline suggests to the delight of their 230 travelling supporters sat huddled together in the otherwise empty Endsleigh Stand — in its time a state-of-the-art edifice that brought Burnley serious financial problems.

At the towering new stands at Burnley and Preston North End prove a case of *Folie de grandeur* fuelled by local rivalry? A case of "if Blackburn do it, so must we"? They certainly will not fill them when visiting teams bring only 230 supporters with them.

DODGY "keeper," supporters of Fulham chanted hopefully as Peter Shilton prepared to face an early corner kick at Craven Cottage on Saturday. Some hope. Shilton may be 47 and a veteran of 999 League games, but, on this evidence, it still takes an extraordinary strike to make Shilton's problem was that they managed only one of them, and, good as it was, it was not enough.

It came 25 minutes from time, as their forwards swarmed for the umpteenth time around the Leyton Orient penalty area. Paul Watson's curling effort was a high punch that Shilton, powerless for some time, went in off the post. "It was a great shot," Shilton said. "You can't stop everything."

Yet he stopped nearly everything else, although his best save of the afternoon, when he threw himself to the right to palm aside Conroy's late effort, was more than a footnote at the time. There were barely a minute left, Orient were down to ten men, after McGivern

dismissal for a late tackle, and Fulham looked to have three more points safely in the bag to consolidate their leadership of the Nationwide League third division.

It proved critical in the referee's assessment everyone in the ground by awarding a goal kick instead of a corner. Within seconds Orient had worked the ball forward, won a free kick, and Warren had headed in a high, hanging cross for the equaliser. "Typical, isn't it?" Shilton said. "I was disappointed the referee gave a goal kick, but it was good for the club to come back and get a draw against the leaders. We're battling and creating a few chances."

Shilton was kept warm by his personal duel with Conroy, the division's top scorer.

Shilton now faces a week of pressures of a different kind, with a range of interviews and photo sessions to plough through before his 1,500th appearance, next Sunday.

FULHAM 5-3: A. Lange, — M Blake (sub 40), D. Collins, B. Smith, N. O'Shea, T. Angus, — P. Watson, H. Catterick, G. Costantini (sub 40), R. Scott, 67, S. Taylor, 78, 80.

LEYTON ORIENT 5-2: B. Shilton — J. Wharmby, 67, 78, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20,

FOOTBALL: GULLIT FAILS TO FIND ANSWERS AS CHELSEA PAY DEARLY FOR LACK OF FIGHTING SPIRIT

Sunderland signal bright future

Sunderland 3
Chelsea 0

By Andrew Longmore

THEY probably did not tell Gianfranco Zola of days like this when he forsook Italy for the more earthly delights of the FA Carling Premiership. If they had, he might have added a footnote to his contract: "I reserve the right to have a hamstring injury on cold evenings in the North East." Not that Zola, the little Italian, proved an expensive luxury at Roker Park yesterday. Far from it. It was just that those around him had left much of their heart back on the King's Road.

Nothing, though, should detract from Sunderland's victory, their most emphatic at home since April and a timely confirmation of their resurgence after a clear-cut defeat of Everton the week before. On

Christmas Eve, Sunderland will be floated on the Stock Exchange and, if the timing is a trifle odd, the seriousness of their financial challenge to the big-time Charlies should not be underrated. In his typically gritty way, Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, is fashioning a side of total commitment and, rather more unexpectedly, deft skill.

A new 4,000-seat ground lies around the corner, metaphorically and geographically, and it needs to be filled with Premiership football, but, if Sunderland continue to play like this, they can turn their sights to something rather more fulfilling than mere survival.

"It was a smashing day for us and for our crowd," Reid said. "It was an early Christmas present for them because they hadn't seen many goals here recently. I thought the way we went about the job was top class."

Sunderland's spirit was epitomised by Andy Melville,

who returned to Premiership duty less than 24 hours after playing for Wales against Turkey in a World Cup qualifier. In contrast, Chelsea were left to reflect on the absence of Vialli, through injury, Leboeuf, through suspension, and Di Matteo — until he went on as a second-half substitute — through loss of form. Gullit, the manager, pressed himself into service as a striker, choosing to rest Hughes, another to play for Wales on Saturday, and fulfil a role that he has not regularly filled since his early days, and Sinclair returned to right back for his first game in nearly ten months.

For once, Gullit looked out of his depth. His most frequent pose was with arms akimbo, head bowed in disgust at what was going on around him. It did not occur to him until too late that he should try to influence the game by retreating into midfield. Perhaps he was wise. So strong was the tackling of Ball and Bracewell in the Sunderland midfield, even the combative Wise looked lost.

Admittedly, Sunderland's cause was helped by the large slice of luck that gave them their opening goal on the half-hour — yet, even before then, Gray had given Sinclair notice of the torrid afternoon ahead of him and Russell warned Duberry and Clarke of his pace, nipping behind them to force Grodas into a diving save. Then, just as Chelsea were beginning to find some semblance of order, Russell struck. Or was it Duberry's back? Either way, Russell broke inside from the right, lined up a shot that sliced off his left foot and took a wicked deflection off Duberry, the Chelsea central defender, to loop tumbling over Grodas and into the net. Russell looked sheepish enough about claiming the goal; Reid did not care.

"We got a break with that one and we'd not had many of those this season," he said. "After that we were able to relax and play our football." And play they did. No sooner had the whistle blown at the start of the second half than Sunderland extended their lead. This one was a beauty, worthy of Serie A in its movement and execution.

Not for the first time, Sinclair was drawn hopelessly out of position on the right



Ball leads the celebrations after scoring Sunderland's spectacular second goal at Roker Park yesterday

when Gray was released by Bracewell. Gray's first touch was clumsy, his second a delight as he floated a wicked, curling centre away from Grodas for Ball to hurt himself through the air and score with a spectacular header. It was no more than Ball, the inspirational Sunderland captain, deserved, a tribute to the work that Reid has been putting in on the training

ground in persuading his midfield to search for goals. For a time, as Hughes went on and Chelsea reorganised, Sunderland seemed set to turn an emphatic victory into an embarrassment. In the 67th minute Russell once again sneaked in behind Clarke to turn Kelly's delicately angled pass under Grodas and into the net. The Roker roar could be heard as far down the coast

as Middlesbrough. Shortly after, the same combination, working the same move, forced Grodas into an excellent save.

Gullit was not generous in defeat, whining about the injustice of the first goal rather than the inadequacies of his team. "You cannot train for goals like that," he said, "but what worries me about this side is that they give away

stupid goals." Sunderland deserved more credit than that and it will not have escaped their notice that they are only five points behind Chelsea — and closing.

SUNDERLAND (4-5-1): L. Power — G. Hall, R. O'Neil, A. Melville, D. Kelly — D. Kelly, K. Ball, P. Bracewell, A. Reid (sub: M. Bridges, 89), M. Gray (sub: S. Agnew, 88) — C. Russell.

CHELSEA (4-3-3): F. Grodas — F. Sinclair, S. Clarke, M. Duberry, S. Minto — C. Burke (sub: R. D. Mitchell, 45), D. Wise, E. Newton — G. Zola, R. Gullit, A. Ayew (sub: M. Hughes, 88), R. Williams, M. Doolan.

Loyal supporters draw little comfort in the cold

A couple of voices called out "Judas!", and then a couple more — not really malevolently, but feeling that it was somehow expected of them. Judas? If John Stones can reproduce on the pitch the speed that he showed from the Elland Road exit to the Tottenham Hotspur team coach, then even Robbie Fowler will be in trouble.

What has Stones done to be thus placed in the depths of the *Inferno* in the Leeds United "cosmic view"? Simple. He was all set to join them last week, but Tottenham snaffled him up from beneath their noses. At the last minute something better turned up.

Since his first match was between these clubs, a difficult afternoon was in prospect. However, he saved the day by suffering from that most terrible of afflictions, the diplomatic groin strain.

Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, denied any hint of diplomacy, but after seeing what Leeds can do when they get over-excited — a horrid kicking match against Chelsea — perhaps he was wise to keep the temperature down.

It was freezing, and the result was 0-0. Now there can be wonderful, enthralling, altogether satisfying 0-0 draws, and this was not one of them.

It was an afternoon of midfield incoherence and a result that both clubs would have settled for before kick-off.

Was it only the ballet critics up in the press box who were displeased? For those loyal to either cause, there were satisfying points about the afternoon. Leeds, under George Graham's brutal pragmatism, have now recorded three successive clean sheets.

This is not going to make red-hot television, but it warms the hearts of committed footballing people — committed to Leeds, that is. Meanwhile, Tottenham, in their continuing crisis of identity, their seeking under Francis of the low road of consistent competence, had the better of the day.

Leeds also had the pleasure of abusing Stones for his disloyalty to a club of which he was never a member. Do the customers of the NatWest bank call Barclays branch manager "Judas" if he thinks about joining the NatWest but ends up at Lloyds?

One-club footballers are rare beasts these days. They move from firm to firm because a mobile workforce is what the firms themselves want. In the main, the only people who stay loyal to clubs are supporters. As more and more money comes into the

Simon Barnes wonders who enjoyed the freezing stalemate at Elland Road

game, one wonders at the gulf between the supporters' perception of their club and that of the players. Has it ever been so wide?

The demography of the game is changing, and with it the nature of the supporters.

Increasingly, the people that buy the ever more expensive tickets are not die-hard home-and-away loyalists, but floating voters in search of "entertainment", and, certainly, that describes most people who watch their football on

television. After all, people watch even if their own club should they support one, is not playing.

Middlesbrough have shown us the value of the concept of "entertainment". They have certainly had more publicity, more stuff written about them, than any club outside championship contenders — and perhaps that is enough to satisfy their sponsors.

Graham was asked afterwards if he did not feel the pressure to sign a "name". A big-money signing at least shows the world that you are doing your best. Graham, alarmingly amiable these days, was in at once with a denial. A denial of the whole idea, in fact.

"The fans are not looking for a name," he said. "They are looking for improvement in the league. They want a successful Leeds United." In other words, who gives a monkey for the neutrals, the floating voters and the ballet critics?

The concept of loyalty has changed among footballers. Ian Rush is still seen as the archetypal one-club man, yet he left Liverpool to collect some foreign exchange in Italy, and he is now at Leeds, still, game as ever, struggling not to be an embarrassment to his own past.

Perhaps the one-club sup-

porter is also a thing of the past, or less of a factor in the scheme of things, anyway. Will an Arsenal supporter be able to watch Newcastle United versus Manchester United on pay-per-view without his conscience shouting "Judas"? We shall doubtless see soon enough.

Certainly, nobody that did not love Leeds or Tottenham very deeply indeed would have been able to stick the events of last Saturday, still less get any pleasure from them. Fox and Howells hit the woodwork for Tottenham, and Fox might have had a penalty. Rush, as usual, missed a chance that he would have buried in a former life. Not a one-club man, but only any good for one club.

Football is fashionable, and so are replica football shirts. The game has caught the nation's fancy. However, those who enjoy the fruits of caprice must prepare themselves for caprice's lash. Big names and fashion trends come and go, but the virtues of the indestructibly ghastly 0-0 draw endureth forever.

LEEDS UNITED (4-3-3): M. Marlyn — G. Kelly, C. Palmer, P. Beasley, L. Radabaugh, C. Halls — J. Bowyer, R. Walters (sub: H. Kewell, 78min), M. Ford (sub: M. Jackson, 83) — B. Deane, I. Rush.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I. Walker — S. Campbell, S. Carr, C. Carterwood, C. Wilson — P. Fox, A. Walker, D. Howells, A. Strain — E. Shearn, S. Hanson.

Referee: P. Dunne.

Mere mortals pay price as Fowler joins the deities

Liverpool 5
Middlesbrough 1

By Mark Hodgkinson

PLAYERS, since they are mere servants to mortality, pass through, but the aura of Liverpool remains. Bill Shankly and his acolytes of fear and the legacy, passed on like a family heirloom, continues.

Middlesbrough were beaten by themselves as much as their opponents in crimson on Saturday. Like scores before them, they were overwhelmed, struck mute in the court of the crimson kings. Their defence was undignified and discomfiting, like watching a flyweight being set upon by Mike Tyson.

If the state of mind was amiss, it was matched by the calamity of Bryan Robson's tactics. He played the same formation as Liverpool, effectively pitting player against player, with disastrous results. Journeyman like Mustoe, Stamp, Liddle and Cox were loyal to their brief, but for the most part looked like men running upwards on the down escalator.

Liverpool had the verve and guile to secure optimum returns from Middlesbrough's deficiency, though, despite the scoreline, the performance was still short of consummate. They sometimes drained too much pace from the game, leaving it almost funereal, and teams of a less pusillanimous nature would have fed hungrily on some scrappy passing.

Within seconds of the kick-off Emerson showed why he should have been finding his fitness anywhere else but on the unrelenting stage of Anfield. He appeared to pull a muscle on his first amble upfield and was left with a diminishing view of Collymore's studs as he tore into the Middlesbrough half. His shot was blocked by Walsh, but followed up expertly by Fowler. Twenty-nine seconds gone, just another 5.371 for Middlesbrough to endure.

They survived for nearly 30 minutes before the same combination struck again. This time Collymore hit the post and Fowler gleefully tapped the ball home. It was his 100th goal in 165 games for Liverpool and he celebrated by lifting up his shirt to reveal the message: "God's job's a good 'un." It transpired afterwards that Fowler's nickname among his team-mates is God, and he is palpably not one for understatement.

Liddle and Whyte were booked for fouls as they tried to disturb the Liverpool

rhythm to no avail. Collymore, playing with thrilling directness, once more supplied a goal for a colleague. His free kick was parried by Walsh and Bjornebye stooped to head it beyond flailing defenders.

If Emerson was half-fit, Ravanelli, Middlesbrough's other expensive import, was half-hearted. He skirted tackles, rarely chased for the ball and his control and passing was dreadful. If he was poor with his feet, he was much better with his arms. In his black driving gloves, he continually gestured to team-mates, many of whom were working twice as hard, for — at best — half the pay.

Middlesbrough were denied a fingerhold on the match when Keith Burge, the referee, indicated that McAteer's collision in the penalty area with Hignett had been a shoulder charge rather than a push.

The game effectively over, Liverpool briefly hit upon one of their infamous bouts of day-dreaming, but a goal by Fjortoft, headed in from a free



Fowler: scoring spree

kick, prompted them back to life. McManaman collected when Mustoe allowed the ball to run loose. He advanced towards goal, placed it through to Fowler and he pushed it beyond Walsh to record a hat-trick.

Fowler's fourth and Liverpool's final goal was a wonderful piece of finishing. He steadied himself expertly, while Liddle and Whelan danced ungainly as if suddenly caught on ice. Fowler played the ball from one foot to the other and finally into the net.

Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, was candid in his appraisal of the match. "Liverpool were red hot today," he said. "They had a great start and the lads drained away afterwards. I'm glad we are not going to come up against them every week."

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): M. Wright, N. Ruddock, P. Babb — J. McAteer, B. Barnes, M. Thomas, S. McManaman, S. Bjornebye — R. Fowler, S. Collymore.

MIDDLESBROUGH (5-3-2): G. Walsh — N. Cox, D. Whyte, P. Whelan — P. Stamp, A. Campbell, S. Hignett, R. Mustoe, Emerson, C. Hignett, C. Liddle — J. Fjortoft, F. Ravanelli.

Referee: A. Budge.

Unsettled Clark faces talks with chairman

FRANK CLARK, the Nottingham Forest manager, will have talks with Irving Korn, the chairman, this week before deciding his future with the struggling FA Carling Premiership club (Richard Hobson writes). He is concerned at the way takeover moves are becoming increasingly protracted, casting uncertainty around the City Ground.

Despite early hopes that the matter would be resolved and a buyer in place by the end of November, it now appears that the new owners will not be in position until January 6 at the earliest. Forest will have to repay a bank loan of £2 million by the end of the year and Clark, who has been

expecting an injection of around £13 million with which to buy new players, will be under pressure to sell instead.

Forest are second from bottom of the Premiership without a win since the opening day of the season. They meet second-placed Liverpool at Anfield tomorrow night and follow that with home games against Arsenal, the leaders, and Manchester United.

Clark has revealed an interest in bringing Jürgen Klinsmann, the unsentimental Bayern Munich striker, to the City Ground at the end of the season, but added: "Unless we are at least mid-table by then, we will not have a chance of enticing him."

Work ethic offers Wimbledon belated reward

Wimbledon 1
Blackburn Rovers 0

By Brian Glanville

FROM far and wide they came, by all accounts, to watch Wimbledon on Saturday and to discover their secret. Even Egil Olsen, the team manager of Norway, who only recently announced that he thought English football so drab that he discouraged his players from coming here.

After watching this apology for an FA Carling Premiership match, he could only have been confirmed in his opinions. As for Joe Kinnear, Wimbledon's irrepressible manager, he said that there was no secret: "You can't beat hard work."

Wimbledon, in fact, deserve to be studied not as a team — for all their 19-match unbeaten run, they remain a pretty fustian one — but as a club. In this respect, they consistently perform small miracles.

Miracles of finding and developing the young, such as Ardley, Perry and Fear, miracles in the transfer market. Such as picking up, for peanuts, a striker such as the formidable Marcus Gayle, whose career at Brentford once seemed at an end after a fracas on the training ground. Brentford, though, kept him; Wimbledon got him. Gayle has seemingly seen the light and now he is a host in himself.

Just belt the ball high and hard up the left, as Kimble enthusiastically does, in the old Wimbledon tradition, and Gayle, with his pace and power and no small skill, will as likely as not make something out of it.

Such as he did midway through the first half, when excellent work and a searching cross had the Blackburn Rovers defence in disarray. When at last the ball was hacked out of the goalmouth, Ardley met it and his shot was beaten down by Given.

In the closing minutes, when Blackburn seemed worn down by Wimbledon's sheer pressure, Gayle was devastating. He beat the indom-

table Hendry on the right-hand goalline when there seemed no possible way past him, with a feint that would have done credit to Stanley Matthews. Receiving from Leonhardsen, he made space for himself in a central position, hitting a low shot that Given did well to turn for a corner.

These, alas, were no more than Wales worry

Steve McManus

belated consolations. As Tony Parkes, Blackburn's regular, temporary manager, said, the game for much of its course looked all over a goalless draw. He was right to admit: "We didn't create enough chances for the possession we had," though, by the same token, Kinnear was right to praise Perry and Blackwell, his centre backs, for the way that they subdued the Blackburn strikers.

Blackburn's parts continue to be so

much greater than the whole. Too often they flatter to deceive. On one of the few occasions that they seemed likely to score, early in the second half, when Sullivan made a hash of a corner, Sherwood shot but the ball was blocked.

Vinnie Jones was not at Selhurst Park, he was playing for Wales, but perhaps it was as well that he was missing. An incensed Kinnear will confront him today over a flippant interview that he gave about the rest of the Wimbledon team.

Kinnear insisted that "people are forgetting who we are and expecting more of us. I think for some reason we were a yard off the pace in the first half. In the second half we decided to go brave, push Ardley up, give Leonhardsen a free role."

It was Holdsworth, though, the scoring substitute, who finally broke the dull deadlock, four minutes from the end. By that point Blackburn's defence, at last, was rocking. Wimbledon kept potting the ball back into the mixer, however desperately

Blackburn tried to get it away. Finally it came to Peter Fear, whose kick took a kindly deflection off a colleague, enabling Ardley to flick it on and Holdsworth to score easily.

"We never really expected them to score," Parkes said, resignedly, "but it was a typical Wimbledon goal. You can't clear your lines and someone nods it down to score."

So Wimbledon continue to mingle with the mighty and, if they are up there by default, whose fault is that? What they have so boldly and resourcefully proved is that, even in these days of excess when millionaire players abound, David can still topple Goliath.

Deprived of European competition in 1988, after winning the FA Cup, they surely deserve a chance in 1997.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N. Sullivan — R. Cunningham, D. Blackwell, C. Perry, A. Kinnear — M. Ardley, R. Eadie, P. Fear, O. Leonhardsen — M. Gayle, E. Dackiw (sub: D. Holdsworth, 78min).

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-3-3): S. Green — J. Kinnear, C. Hendry, H. Bagg, G. La Sota — I. Bolton, W. McCloy, T. Sheridan — K. Gallacher, C. Sutton, J. Wilson.

Referee: A. Williams.

THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

MICHAEL JOHNSON

Winner of 200 & 400 Olympic Gold Medals

TO ORDER: FREEPHONE 0800 454818

£10.99 paperback

Available from all Good Bookshops

RUGBY UNION

Wales lay down foundations for better days

Wales 20
South Africa 37

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE old year ended for international rugby much as it began, with the British game contemplating how far it must travel before coming up on the shoulder of the southern hemisphere, but, in defeat in Cardiff yesterday, Wales offered a display of ambition and initiative that will serve them well when the new year comes.

There is always a danger in drawing too much sustenance from defeat, and the fact is that South Africa sealed their victory with five tries to set against one. Three of those scores fell to Joost van der Westhuizen, the livewire scrum half who rivals Justin Marshall, of New Zealand, as the best in the global game; yet Robert Howley lacked little in comparison and, given an ounce more good fortune, Wales would have pressed far closer.

It is a difficult game to play when one side advances in bursts of three, the other in leaps of five or seven points, but, for all that, Neil Jenkins kept Wales in the frame with his kicking. An interval lead of 23-12 gave South Africa scope in which to express themselves and, happily for a 45,000-strong crowd, they chose to do so rather than adopting a defensive strategy.

"The side that won the World Cup was a great defensive side," André Markgraaff, the South Africa coach, said. "We are a good defensive side, but we are also trying to score tries." Twenty-one in five internationals on their tour of Argentina, France and Wales is testimony to his success, to a team born in disharmony but that now contemplates 1997 with very real expectations.

The tally of tries might have

been more but for the last pass going astray during the first half yesterday and to a Welsh facility in cover defence that they could not match in attack. They had to wait until added time before Arwel Thomas, retrieving something from an afternoon of personal pain, dummied his way over on the blind side.

Nevertheless, there was a shape and strength of purpose to Wales that England, 24 hours earlier, lacked against Argentina. Allan Bateman made a notable return to the red jersey after six years away in rugby league, strong in the tackle and deceptively elusive in attack, and, despite the travails of Thomas, the mid-field came close to breaching the meanness of defences. If Jenkins had been more at

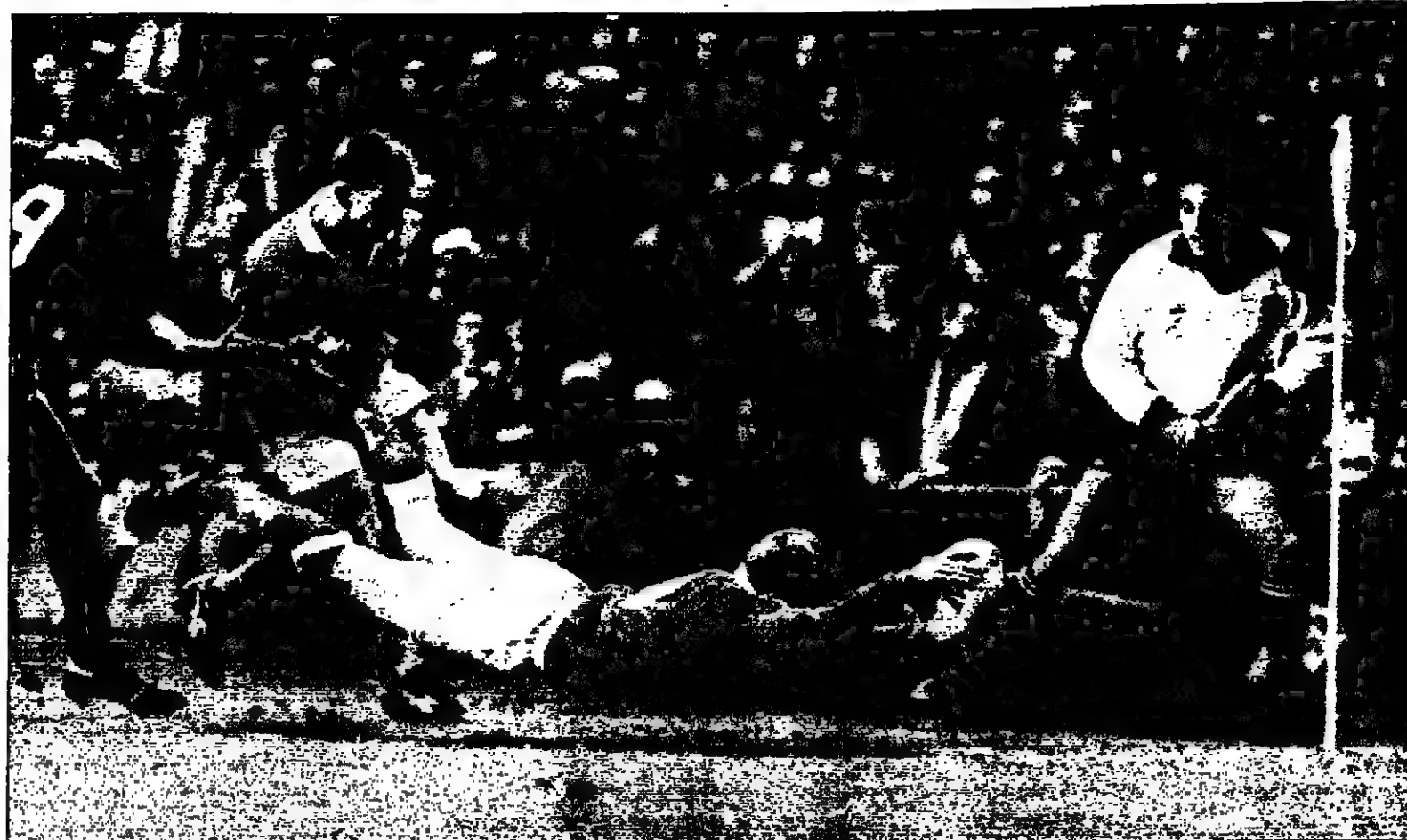
Jenkins never allowed his accuracy to drift. Wales needed more than penalty goals and van der Westhuizen showed them a clean pair of heels, bursting clear from 25 metres after Teichmann had broken the advantage line.

A good start to the second half might have spurred Wales, particularly since the South Africa pack had to be reorganised after injuries to Theron and Andrews, but within two minutes van der Westhuizen had ripped the ball away from Howley and crossed for his third try. Though Jenkins kicked a fifth penalty goal, South Africa's advantage grew as Honiball probed deftly and Olivier, with surgical precision, sensed a gap in the defence and took it.

Still Wales came again: Howley broke clear and kicked ahead, Jenkins was first to the ball and his forwards arrived to force an attacking scrum. A knock-on by Joubert took them even closer and, rather than going for the eight-man push, Wales released the ball quickly for Arwel Thomas to carve the opening. It was a good end to a fine match, but so much, for Wales, remains still to do.

SCORES: Wales: Try A Thomas, Penalty goals: Jenkins (5). South Africa: Try: van der Westhuizen (3), Joubert, Olivier, Conventers: Honiball (2), Joubert, Penalty goals: Honiball (2).

WALLES: N R Jenkins (Pontypridd); I G Evans (Llanelli), A G Bateman (Rochester); S G Gibbs (Swansea), D James (Bridgend); A C Thomas (Swansea), R Howley (Cardiff), C D Loader (Swansea), J M Humphreys (Cardiff), captain, D Young (Cardiff), D M McInnes (Pontypridd), G O Jones (Cardiff), M Howley (Pontypridd), C Cheevers (Swansea), S M Williams (Neath), M Thomas (Neath), N Thomas (Barn, Glam). **SOUTH AFRICA:** A Joubert (Natal); J T Small (Natal), J C Muller (Transvaal), H le Roux (Transvaal), J Olivier (Northern Transvaal), H W Honiball (Natal), J H van der Westhuizen (Northern Transvaal), D Theron (Gauteng), J Cullen (Free State), A C Gwary (Natal), R J Roux (Northern Transvaal), J J Wales (Transvaal), M G Andrews (Natal), A G Versteeg (Free State), G H Teichmann (Natal, captain), Theron replaced by A van der Linde (Western Province), J H Andrews replaced by J J Snyman (Transvaal, 40); Olivier replaced by A H Brynman (Northern Transvaal, 70). Referee: S Lander (England).



Thomas dives into the corner to give Wales a consolation try in a rousing finale to their defeat by South Africa in Cardiff yesterday

Selectors should stay on the attack

In the past two weeks Wales have lost to Australia and South Africa. This will be no doubt a cause for some discontent, but not too much. Wales must place these failings in the context of the high quality of the opponents whom they faced and of what is ahead of them. Having lost to two southern hemisphere countries, where the most powerful rugby nations now unquestionably reside, is no reason to feel despondent and cause the Wales selectors to make any dramatic gestures by changing their personnel or the manner they intended to play the game. There was much to encourage them here.

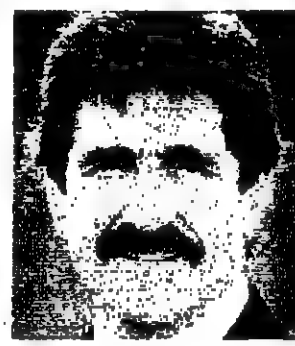
Wales's next match is against the United States, in January, with the five nations' championship coming swiftly on its heels. By the very nature of the gulf that exists between the two hemispheres, their opponents in the new year will offer a different standard

of play. It may well be that Wales, as others must, may aspire to those standards south of the equator, but this must be allied to realism. Their aim now is to do well, and more, against their European neighbours. That is the place to gain a reputation for now. It may be below par in world standards, but that is all that Wales can hope for. Come January this will be seen as no small ambition.

This, at any rate, was a Wales performance upon which such hopes can be built. It was a spirited effort. If the expectation beforehand was of the likelihood of Wales being overwhelmed, this did not in any way materialise. The try difference of five to one may indicate as much, but Wales, territorially, had as much, if not more, of the game than South Africa.

There was optimism, too, in the way that Wales's tactics indicated an intention to at-

GERALD DAVIES



At Cardiff

sulted, two minutes later, in Olivier scoring at the other end. There was a long way to go at this stage and all the points on offer should have been gratefully received.

Of the individual players, Charvis had a conspicuous game on his first full international. Bateman and Gibbs were a solid pair in the centre and around whom much can be created. Collectively, at forward, it was significant that, given a penalty midway through the second half, Wales chose to take a scrum. Clearly, this was a measure of their confidence.

The overall weakness, though, was that, as Wales threatened to turn South Africa on their heels and make progress forward, errors crept in and let them off the hook. Indeed, there were occasions when Wales made South Africa look vulnerable.

However, the difference between the teams lay in speed.

Wales may have caused problems for South Africa's defence, but they never looked like running clear of it. South Africa, with Joubert, Mulder and Olivier, given the slightest chance, could open up gaps that Wales could only close with desperate attempts. It was not so much the man with the ball who was important but those on his shoulder. He invariably enjoyed the support of two or three others. This was demonstrated in van der Westhuizen's second try: five pairs of hands in swift succession — van der Westhuizen, Andrews, Honiball, Teichmann and van der Westhuizen — quick and irresistible.

This was the style that Wales should attempt to emulate. The five countries of the championship have seen the standard set by the southern hemisphere and they must hope that some of it will rub off in the tournament.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

THE TIMES

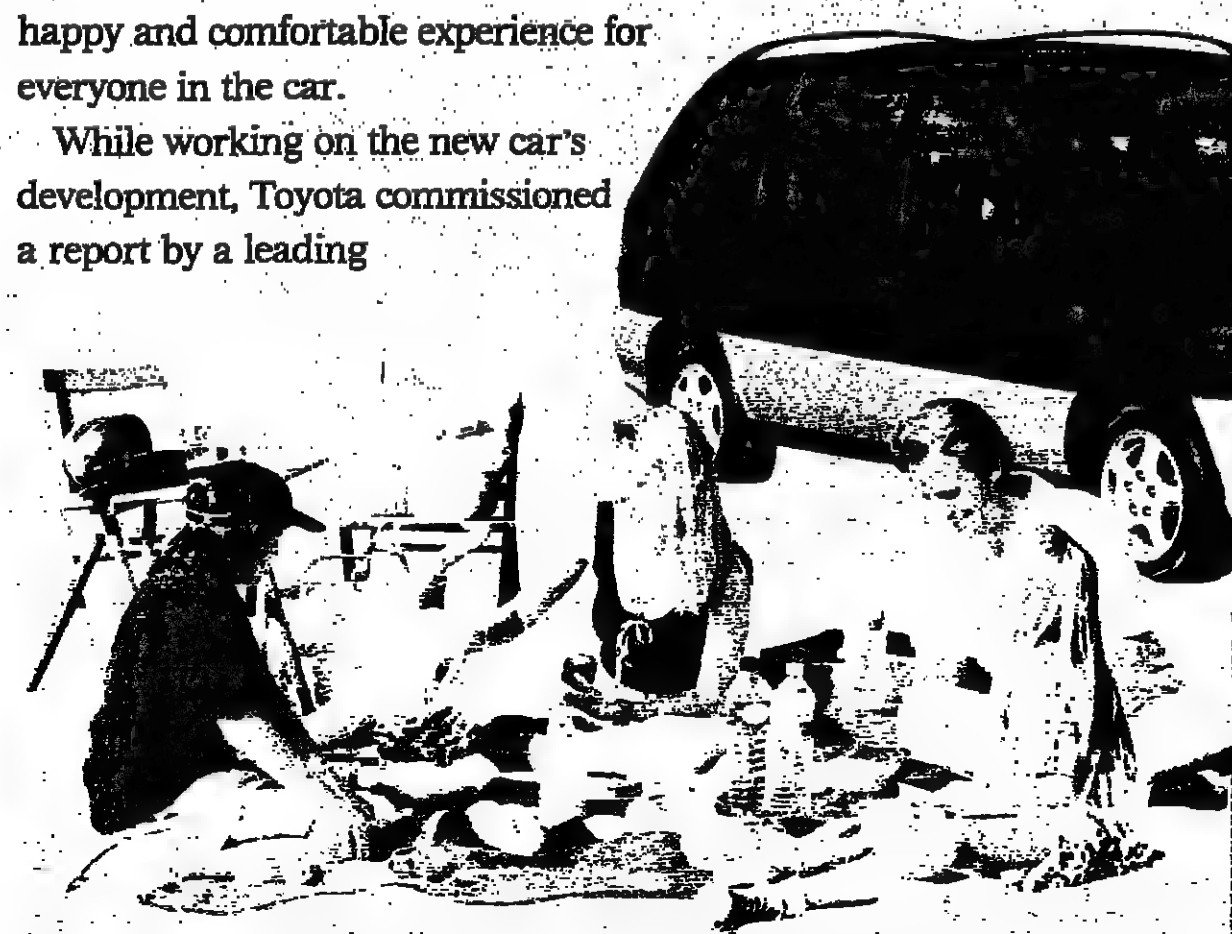
Win a £17,200 Toyota Picnic FFV

The Times offers readers the chance to win every family's dream car — the new Toyota Picnic Family Fun Vehicle which will be going on sale in the UK for the first time in January. The six-seater vehicle has been designed with the aim of making travelling with children a happy and comfortable experience for everyone in the car.

While working on the new car's development, Toyota commissioned a report by a leading

psychologist, to investigate the psychology of family travel. The report identified that although it may not seem impossible to change children's behaviour on long car journeys, there are certain fundamentals that ensure more peaceful family travel.

The Toyota Picnic Family Fun Vehicle has a list of impressive features including six individual seats, all with 3-point seat belts, giving children their own space to minimise the risk of irritation. Safety features include dual air bags and side impact beams. There are a total of 17 different seat combinations and a power outlet in the rear — essential for the kids' personal stereo on that long car journey. For your chance to win this superb vehicle, collect four tokens from The Times and complete the entry form below.



HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win the Toyota Picnic collect four differently numbered tokens from the seven appearing in The Times between Saturday December 14 and Saturday December 21, 1996. Send them with

the completed entry form to: The Times/Toyota Picnic Competition, Ashentree Court, London EC8B 8NG. The closing date for receipt entries is first post Friday January 17, 1997.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1. The car to be won is the Toyota Picnic FFV (manual) and cannot be exchanged for a different model or cash alternative. 2. The car will be presented ready to drive away, except for insurance and road tax, which will be the responsibility of the winner. 3. Winners may be required to be photographed for publicity purposes. 4. Acceptance of all the rules is a condition of entry. 5. For the name of the winner, please send a SAE to the address above. 6. The car will be awarded at the winner's nearest Toyota dealership. 7. The competition is open to all Times readers over 17 years of age. 8. The winner will be the person who correctly completes the competition question and who, in the opinion of the independent judges, submits the best tie-break. 9. Normal Times Newspaper competition rules apply.

THE TIMES/TOYOTA COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Attach four differently numbered Toyota Picnic tokens from The Times, answer the question below and complete the tie-break.

What are the four missing words in this slogan?
..... is a Toyota

Post this form to: The Times/Toyota Competition, Ashentree Court, London EC8B 8NG. The competition closes on January 17, 1997.

Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms Post name

Summe

Address

Postcode Day Tel (inc STD code)

It would help us if you answered these four questions:

Which one of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)

☐ 1) 15-24 ☐ 2) 25-34 ☐ 3) 35-44 ☐ 4) 45-54 ☐ 5) 55-64 ☐ 6) 65+

Tie-break: please state in no more than 12 words why you would like to win the Toyota Picnic

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) during the week?

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week?

Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by The Times, please tick ☐

THE TIMES
TOYOTA
picnic
TOKEN 2

Log on to join in as rugby spreads its net

The snowball effect had begun. "The biathlon people said I should take up shooting," he said. "I competed in one national biathlon before starting triathlon. I did a couple of national modern triathlons, then the triathlon people said I should take up fencing. I tried fencing, did a



Olympic champion? "Because of the amount I have come on since I started," he said.

He may take encouragement from the example of Salima Aoutia, of Morocco, once 37th in the world junior cross-country championships and later a senior world champion and Olympic champion and a multi-world record-holder on the track.

TWO tries by Ben Cohen helped East Midlands to retain their hold on the Royal and Sun Alliance colts county championship at Twickenham on Saturday after a rally that did not take shape until the final quarter. It also demonstrated the ambition with which youngsters in this age-group approach the game.

Under-19 rugby has been the subject of much debate by the Rugby Football Union this year, but East Midlands, who included two members of the 1995 winning XV, have shown a consistency of approach from one year to the next which suggests that they are in good heart. Preparation for this season began as early as last spring and indicates that the grass roots of the game can act effectively in conjunction with the professionals.

has had a handful of outings for the first XV, and the adventure with which they played suggested that they have been watching Ian McGeechan at work with the seniors at Franklin's Gardens.

Yet, leading 10-0 going into the second half, Kent must have hoped to crown their first final with success.

Firth kicked a penalty goal and converted a try by Tassell, who swerved through to the posts. At that stage the East Midlands park started to roll, Walters well to the fore. Cohen looped from a tapped penalty for his

first try, while his second, which effectively sewed up the match, came from a 55-metre interception after Tassell's pass failed to find its mark.

Cornish was twice involved in the move which ended with Bramhall being forced over the line by his forwards. Bramhall, who came close to an '88 Group schools cap last season, left the field on a stretcher shortly before the close after a heavy tackle, but not before he had done much to ensure victory.

SCORES: *East Midlands:* *Trist:* Cohen 10, Bramhall, Cornish, Gingles. *Kent:* Try: Tassell.

[illegible]

Sutherland chose to set up the network through the Internet because he believes that it represents the best way to reach the far corners of the rugby empire. The Web pages have even been translated into French to aid access to the highly-developed French market, while Sutherland has

ship with a leading travel agent. Lower-level players who are unlikely to attract the services of an agent, can advertise their talents to clubs around the world through the network but the ultimate aim of the rugby network remains unchanged – ensuring that the less glamorous rugby professionals receive a slice of the game's new-found money.

☐ **Rugby Network** can be found at <http://www.gazette.co.uk/index.htm>

ALASDAIR MURRAY

No other watch in the game has stamina like the Citizen Eco-Drive. Powered by light, just a few minutes is enough to make it run and run. A few hours keeps it going for up to six months. So you'll never need to change the battery. A performance you'd expect from Citizen, the first to bring the world this technology. Prices from £79.50. Alarm chronograph model illustrated £195. 3 year guarantee. For a brochure and your nearest stockist, call 01753 897210.

●CITIZEN *Eco-Drive*

Men move goalposts in female domain

SHOULD netball shut its eyes and hope that wannabee male wing attacks and goal defences will somehow disappear, or should it embrace them with open arms?

Already Australia, New Zealand and the Caribbean countries each boast hundreds of established male leagues, with teams competing from local level right through to international standard. Now a few male teams are appearing in Great Britain, along with many more mixed sides. Indeed, the England women's squad has lately taken to

Boys are increasingly likely to start playing netball because local education authorities now advocate mixed *sport in primary schools in the belief that there is no physical differences between children of that age that can justify separate physical education.* Indeed, it is common for young boys to play netball in PE lessons and then, later, in after-school unisex clubs.

some leagues insist that men can play only at wing attack, centre or wing defence and can merely mark each other. Other leagues force teams to play a man in each third of the court. Such rules are often incompatible and restrict the possibility of structured inter-league competition.

Accordingly, the All-England Netball Association (AENA) is taking men's participation seriously. So seriously, in fact, that it is presently considering the pros and cons of actively encouraging men's netball, has asked its network of regional development officers to offer equal assistance to

both sexes, and is liaising with Michael Blot, the chairman of the Oxfordshire County Netball Association and a leading campaigner to make it an equal opportunity sport. Blot believes that male involvement would boost sponsorship, credibility, media coverage and, above all, standards. Certainly, in Australasia and the West Indies, women who have grown up competing with males tend to be much tougher and more combative. Whether England should follow suit and produce a more aggressive brand of netball is a subject that will provoke fierce debate.

[illegible]

Times writers give their Christmas selections of the best in sporting literature in 1996

Bradman's shadow returns to haunt Hammond in print

IT WAS Wally Hammond's misfortune that, at the very moment when many people were considering him to be the greatest batsman in the world, along came Don Bradman to upstage him. How strange, eerie almost, that at the very moment when an extraordinary portrait of Hammond lays claim to be the best cricket book of the year, up pops a classic study of Sir Don to challenge it.

Charles Williams (aka C. C. P. Williams, who played cricket for Oxford University and Essex, and Lord Williams of Elvel, a Labour life peer) chose to write a story about Australia as well as a great Australian. He wanted to put Sir Don's cricketing achievements into the context of an Australia feeling her way towards nationhood, to show how his genius became a focus for Australian aspirations during a critical period in the country's history.

By any reasonable standards, he writes in *Bradman: An Australian Hero*, "it was a heavy burden to lay upon anybody let alone somebody whose upbringing had ill prepared him for what was, in some respects at least, the role of a demigod."

It is a measure of how well Sir Don carried that burden that he remains, at the age of 88, one of the great Australian heroes, a cricketer about whom it can be said without exaggeration that he was the greatest of them all.

The tragedy of Hammond is that nobody could ever quite say that about him, not even David Foot, the West Country journalist and writer whose fascination with the man he saw play during his schooldays gave him a lifelong compulsion to write *Wally Hammond: The Reasons Why*. It is an affectionate yet contro-

versial book about someone who, in Foot's words, "brought so much joy to the game yet appeared to find so little of it himself". Sir Len Hutton, no less, said that he would rather see an hour of Hammond than eight or ten of Bradman, yet the great player was to become preoccupied by a sense of failure — in his rivalry with Bradman, in his social aspirations, in his business

enterprises and in his personal relationships. The reasons given by Foot are devastating. These books tower above most of the others on offer, but if you really want to know about the squabbles that cloud so many issues today, there are plenty of people ready to spill the beans.

Allan Lamb, the man whom the Test and County Cricket Board could not gag, was prepared to give up his playing career to have his say about events from hotel bedrooms in New Zealand to the High Court



Sir Don: greatest of all

in his biography, while Dermot Reeve could hardly wait to get his pads off before letting loose both barrels on Brian Lara in *Winning Ways*.

Neither Lamb nor Reeve could resist a pop at the former chairman of the England selectors, but Raymond ("I have never dodged an answer in my life and I am not going to start now") Illingworth is ready for them in *One-Man Committee*. That is not altogether surprising. The versatile Jack Bannister, his collaborator, also wrote the Lamb book.

A more tender look at one of the game's characters is provided by *Free as a Bird: The Life and Times of Harold "Dickie" Bird*, by David Hopps, which tells you all you want to know about the great umpire while the "amoraks" are well catered for in *Benson & Hedges Cricket Year*, which provides a comprehensive review of the past 12 months' cricket all around the world.

□ *Bradman: An Australian Hero*, by Charles Williams (Little, Brown & Co, £20.00).

□ *Wally Hammond: The Reasons Why*, by David Foot (Robson Books, £17.95).

□ *Allan Lamb: My Autobiography* (Collins Willow, £15.99).

□ *Winning Ways*, by Dermot Reeve with Patrick Murphy (Boxtree, £15.99).

□ *One-Man Committee*, by Ray Illingworth and Jack Bannister (Headline, £17.99).

□ *Free as a Bird: The Life and Times of Harold "Dickie" Bird*, by David Hopps (Robson Books, £14.95).

□ *Benson & Hedges Cricket Year*, edited by David Leman (Bloomsbury, £20.00).

PAT GIBSON

Hogan leads promising field

IF THIS year is anything to go by, golf is once again getting the decent literature that it deserves. There have been more well-written and interesting books about the game this year than for some time, no longer just biographies and instructional books but books about courses, histories, biographies and novels.

Curt Sampson's *Hogan* is the best golfing biography for some time. Hogan remains a figure of great interest almost half a century after his greatest victories. The best tribute that can be paid to Sampson's book is to say that it tells the reader a lot more about Hogan than was known hitherto.

For thoroughness, *Heartbreak Hill* takes some beating as an account of the 1995 Ryder Cup at Oak Hill. Roscorke is a reporter's reporter, rarely seen without his tape recorder, who worries away at a story as a dog does at a bone, but the impressive amount of shoe leather evidently used in acquiring information is just one of this book's many attributes.

Liz Kahn's *The LPG: The Unauthorized Version* has been half a lifetime in the making and, as a record of the women's tour in

the United States, could hardly be bettered.

Severiano Ballesteros's *Trouble-Shooting* was written with Robert Green. This is a happy partnership: if there is one person who knows how to get into trouble, it is Green, who has a grip that must cause Ballesteros

to avert his eyes; and if anyone can get out of trouble, it is Ballesteros. Though David Cannon's photographs are among the best taken for an instructional book, it is dispiriting to look at dozens of pictures of Ballesteros in trouble until one realises that Ballesteros's game was founded on hitting into trouble and getting out of it. Since he was once one of the best in the world in both these departments, he is an ideal choice to demonstrate these talents.

Fast Greens, by Turk Pipkin, is set in Texas and centres on the setting on a golf course of a vendetta between ageing wildcats. Texas evidently produces good writers as easily as it produces good golfers.

Bernard Darwin and Aberdovey, compiled by Peter Burles and Geoffrey Piper, is a delightful collection of Darwin's writings about Aberdovey with introductions to each.

□ *Heartbreak Hill*, by Roscorke (St Martin's Press, New York).

□ *The LPG: The Unauthorized Version*, by Liz Kahn (AA Publishing, £6.99).

□ *Trouble-Shooting*, by Severiano Ballesteros with Robert Green (Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99).

□ *Golf Has Never Failed Me — The Lost Commentaries of Legendary Golf Architect Donald Ross* (Sleeping Bear Press, 12 Chantry Road, Bray).

□ *Fast Greens*, by Turk Pipkin (Richard Cohen Books, £8.99).

□ *Bernard Darwin and Aberdovey*, compiled by Peter Burles and Geoffrey Piper (Grant Books, £20).

□ *The Greatest of Them All: The Legend of Bobby Jones*, by Martin Davis (The American Golfer Inc, 135 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830, US).

JOHN HOPKINS

Relating to the mind of a distance runner

WE ALL have our favourite quotations in sport. They can be memorable for being funny, philosophical, tragic, outrageous or inspirational. One which strips the philosophy of training for distance running as bare as it goes appeals to me. "You either run today or you didn't." No excuses.

The cat died this morning. The wife left me. Ouch, that hangs over. Come bedtime, though, you either ran today or you didn't. I do not suppose I am alone in finding myself changed for bed then having run that day. Off come the pyjamas, on go the trainers, and out of the door you go at close to midnight.

"You either ran today or you didn't" was featured in a sports-wear manufacturer's poster and, for months, it was displayed in my hallway at home. Each time I returned from training I would look at it smugly, until it began to torment me. When a long-standing injury made it impossible to run, I ripped it down.

Now, not having run for 18 months, I suspect I am covered by a quote from a former training partner, similarly injured and with veteran ranks, injured, and with personal bests set a decade ago: "The older you get, the better you used to be." Simple are the best

quotes, which is why *The Quotable Runner* is like training: worth the slog for the highlights.

Now available in Great Britain, the book has enough pithy quotes to make it a worthwhile gift by way of a change from a training log. Mainly, it is a book for the active athlete, because much of it relates to the mind of a runner. First and foremost it is for the distance runner.

The chapter on training is worth leaving open next to the television, for those occasions when you may be tempted to take the evening off. "The will to win means nothing without the will to prepare," Juma Kang'aa, a former New York City Marathon winner, tells.

Mark Will-Weber, the author, tells us that, as a coach, he began collecting quotes to put with race results "as a fun way to jazz up the results sheets and inspire the runners to train with diligence."

□ *The Quotable Runner*, by Mark Will-Weber (available in Britain through *Runner's World* magazine, £12.99).

DAVID POWELL

Nostalgic tribute to friends long gone but not forgotten

IT IS a fact that every one of the 59 racecourses in Great Britain rode out the recession as if it never happened. Companies crashed; homeowners were evicted; life imposed at a private party. Racecourses, though, like debt collectors, were never more secure in their line of work.

The scenario says much about the way that British racing is financed. In electing whether to continue supporting each racecourse, the Horserace Betting Levy Board considers its "financial prudence". None has fallen foul — which is hardly surprising, for racecourses with the least ambition are the best rewarded.

Racecourses are perceived as integral to spreading the joys of racing, but their facilities are regularly criticised by racegoers. In truth, few fears would be shed if the worst half-dozen were closed overnight. Also, it would spawn more works like *A Long Time Gone*, which portrays defunct racecourses in their most favourable light. In some cases, one suspects that reading this meticulously researched volume is infinitely more enjoyable than attending the venues was.

Those lamenting the passing of Lewes, Lark and Alexandra Palace cannot fail to appreciate this book. It trades heavily on

nostalgia, yet there is enough in Chris Pitt's work to interest even the youngest aficionado.

Jump Jockeys Don't Cry is most accurately judged by its cover, which depicts a wheelchair-bound Sharon Murgatroyd being tenderly licked about the face by a horse. This is a moving autobiographical account of an amateur rider left paralysed by a fall and her struggle to make

sense of the pieces. The text makes no concession to the accident's brutality; nor does it court sympathy. Its impact is in its simplicity: a benefit of Murgatroyd's insistence on penning it herself. Murgatroyd cried all right, but she has emerged all the better for eschewing bravura in dealing with her demons. Quite how she has retained her uplifting effervescence is beyond comprehension.

The influence of *Chasers and Hurdles 1995-96*, Timeform's perennial tome, has waned with the excellent coverage of two daily racing papers. It remains a valuable reference to the season past, but might benefit from a facelift, its familiar design no longer breeds reassurance. The

endless series of pedantic questions that it asks has become endemic to the text and it should be far more adventurous in what is expected of horses in the future.

Phil Smith and Simon Holt's Racing Yearbook has potential. This young annual assaults you with its battery of pictures, which leads to inevitable problems in design. A perfectly acceptable recreation in its present set-up, it would work better in a bigger format, with more selective cutting and the inclusion of an index.

There is a gem within it: a jockey is depicted being thrown from his mount at the moment when Alan Shearer scored for England in their Euro 96 semi-final with Germany. Racegoers at Kempton Park following the match, frightened the animal senseless when acclaiming Shearer's goal.

□ *A Long Time Gone*, by Chris Pitt (Portway Press, £26).

□ *Jump Jockeys Don't Cry*, by Sharon Murgatroyd (Romney Publications, £14.95 hardback, £8.95 paperback).

□ *Chasers and Hurdles 1995-96*, Timeform (Portway Press, £62).

□ *Phil Smith and Simon Holt's Racing Yearbook* (£19.95).

JULIAN MUSCAT



Hill, the Formula One world champion, is also well ahead of his rivals in the sales race

Hill takes pole position for his literary lap of honour

A WORLD championship is one thing, but three best sellers is quite another and, this year, Damon Hill has managed both. A video telling the inside story of his battle with Jacques Villeneuve this season has already outsold every other previous Formula One title and the written offering, *My Championship Year*, is right up there with models of Buzz Lightyear at the top of Christmas lists.

The book, the last of a startlingly successful trilogy charting Hill's swaying fortunes over the past three seasons, follows a tried and trusted formula. Essentially, it is a trek through 16 races and their emotions, but somehow Hill, this time with the diligent and expert help of Tim Collings, has mastered the art of avoiding the press-release-type chronology that some of his rivals seem to succumb to year after year.

Hill always seems to be able to hold back little snippets of interest, details that did not make the papers or any of his press conferences, things that fill in the gaps, for his annuals. Perhaps it is just that they are the kind of minutiae that we would not be interested in except in someone with his profile, but it works.

This time, for instance, there is an account of his telephone conversation with Frank Williams, the team owner, when he

rang to tell Hill that his services would not be required for 1997 and the full story behind the negotiations that he and Michael Breen, his manager, conducted.

Hill's other weapon in the book war, though, is the pictures of Jon Nicholson, quickly establishing himself as one of the foremost sporting photographic chroniclers with an acclaimed book on a year in the life of the England rugby team, *Band of Brothers*, on the shelves, too.

His access to Hill, his pictures

of him on holiday with his wife, Georgie, skiing up mountains as part of his training regimen and of his friends toasting his world championship win with champagne in the Williams prefabricated hut at Suzuka, are worth the cover price themselves.

Hill's success on the track has made it hard for any of his rivals to catch up off it. Eddie Irvine, the Ferrari driver from Ulster, created a furore in Northern Ireland with some apparently innocuous comments about the political situation there in his book, *Green Races Red*, a thoughtful, colourful book written with the help of Maurice Hamilton.

Adam Cooper capitalises on his long friendship with Irvine, particularly the time that they spent

together in Japan, with a well-researched, intelligent look at Irvine's early years and his route to the top, *The Luck of the Irish*.

The main rival to Hill's championship year, though, as the best motor racing book of 1996, is something altogether different in tone and time, a product of another era — Eoin Young's affectionate memoirs of 35 years in the sport, *It Beats Working*.

His best stories are the ones surrounding Jim Clark, John Surtees, Chris Amon and Denny Hulme, men whom he knew well, men who treated him as a friend. Those days are gone for ever now, but *It Beats Working* gets as close as anything ever will to recapturing them.

Young even got a few other journalists to buy it at its launch at the German Grand Prix last July. It must be good.

□ *My Championship Year*, by Damon Hill with Tim Collings (Little Brown, £25.00).

□ *Green Races Red*, by Eddie Irvine with Maurice Hamilton (Harper Collins, £14.99).

□ *The Luck of the Irish*, by Adam Cooper (Haynes Publishing, £9.99).

□ *It Beats Working*, by Eoin Young (Patrick Stephens Ltd, £17.99).

OLIVER HOLT

In pursuit of trout with a master

IT HAS been a topsy-turvy year for angling and so it may be appropriate that one of my choices is not really a fishing book at all and that another, strictly speaking, is not even a book.

The value of Laurence Catlow's *Confessions of a Shooting Fishing Man* lies not in what it tells us about the two activities themselves but in the author's exploration of his own motivations in pursuing them. Catlow's words do

not come from the Manual of Political Correctness but they are elegant, honest and mostly helpful words when the world around country activities is in a state of flux.

Second Chance, the angling charity that helps disadvantaged children, has benefited from two pieces of corporate largesse. Channel 4 has allowed it to bring out *Rod and Line*, Arthur Ransome's wonderful collection of fishing essays, in a dramatised video form starring the late Sir Michael Hordern. The original films were shown on Channel 4. Thanks to the publishers, Swan Hill, the charity also receives the proceeds of *Lessons from the Fish*, an anthology of experiences contributed by public figures.

A & C Black, the publishers of, among others, W. C. Stewart in the 19th century and G. E. M. Skues and Arthur Ransome earlier this century, are making a comeback to the angling lists after a long absence. Among their offerings, just published, are John Goddard's *Trout Fishing Techniques*, an excellent work from a modern master.

Finally, there is Jeremy Paxman's provocative reappraisal of *The Complete Angler*. This 20-page limited-edition essay is beautifully bound and boxed.

□ *Confessions of a Shooting Fishing Man*, by Laurence Catlow (Merlin Unwin, £17.99).

□ *Rod and Line* (Second Chance, 130-136 Elm Grove, Southsea, Hampshire PO5 1BA, £20 including p & p).

□ *Lessons from the Fish* (Swan Hill, £18.95).

□ *John Goddard's Trout Fishing Techniques* (A & C Black, £19.99).

□ *The Complete Barble Angler*, by Roger Miller (Crowood, £19.95).

□ *In Pursuit of Big Tench*, by Len Arbery (Crowood, £19.95).

□ *Search for Big Chub*, by Tony Miles (Crowood, £19.95).

□ *Going Fishing*, by Negley Farson (White Lion, £17.95).

□ *A Fly Fisher's Life*, by Charles Rix (Robert Hale £30).

□ *The Complete Angler*, by Jeremy Paxman (The Fly Fisher's Classic Library, Dartmoor View, Mary Street, Bovey Tracey, Devon TQ13 9HQ, £120).

BRIAN CLARKE

Sobel plots course to top of the list

LONGITUDE, by Dava Sobel, is already nesting in its rightful place at the top of the best-seller lists. Although not originally intended exclusively for a sailing readership, it nevertheless makes fascinating reading for anyone who has been to sea and pressed a button on a GPS set to get a latitude and longitude position in a matter of seconds.

Before a reliable way of calculating longitude was discovered, thousands of sailors met their deaths because their navigation skills were so limited. The search for a solution was so urgent that a £20,000 reward was set up under the Longitude Act of 1714 for anyone who could convince the authorities that they had mastered the matter.

Sobel has written an entertaining short history, describing many of the theories of cranks (one of whom supposed longitude could be derived from the yelps of wounded dogs) and detailing the struggle between John Harrison, the English master clock-maker, and his adversaries, who favoured the so-called "lunar distance" method. Harrison, who built the first virtually friction-free chronometer able to calculate a ship's position to within a few miles, finally triumphed and collected the reward in 1773, but only after

40 years of toil, political intrigue and academic back-biting.

The fourth edition of anything is not often a cause for special attention, but one old warhorse in the sailing library has been given a new lease of life. *This is Sailing: A Complete Course* has already sold more than 900,000 copies since it appeared in 1973. In its new format, it is edited by Jim Saltonstall, the Great Britain Olympic sailing coach.

who has substantially rewritten the text, which is informative and easy to follow. What really marks the book out are the computer-assisted colour photographs, which show the manoeuvres being described in a seamless sequence on the water.

□ *Longitude*, by Dava Sobel (Fourth Estate, £12).

□ *This is Sailing: A Complete Course*, edited by Jim Saltonstall (Adlard Coles Nautical, £15.99).

□ *Handling Troubles Afloat*, by John Mellor (Adlard Coles Nautical, £12.99).

□ *The Delivery*, by Mark Chisnell (Century, £9.99).

EDWARD GORMAN

Julia Gregson on the patience and commitment needed to learn the art and the discipline of dressage

Turning equine Escorts into highly responsive Ferraris

I want to stay her friend so I'm learning to listen to her more, to understand when she's tired or bolshie. Sometimes, when I don't ask for much, she gives a lot more."

What's this then? A breakthrough moment at Relate? An encounter group? No, actually it's a 12-year-old learning the magical intricacies of horse training at a regional training session organised by the British Young Riders' Dressage Scheme (Byrds for short). The training sessions, open to anyone under 21 and costing £10 a day, are part of some exciting new initiatives organised by the dressage group to talent spot for future British team members, and also to introduce any child who is interested in the fastest growing branch of equine activity.

Our two-day course was held at Claypits Farm, in Gloucestershire. The teacher was Annabel Scrimgeour, who has trained Olympic riders, three-day event riders such as Mark Todd and Lucinda Murray.

The pupil was my 12-year-old daughter, Poppy, encouraged to talk about her own mysterious, magical and growing relationship with her 12-year-old mare, Miss L.A. (Ellie to her friends), a Welsh cross thoroughbred. All riders like to pretend that their mounts were unrideable brumbies before they tamed them, but our Ellie was once a genuine bovine girl — lasting only a week in one home because she refused to have a bridle or saddle put on, and returned from another because she was too lively.

When Poppy met Ellie both were addicted to high speed and bombing across country and both were prescribed more dressage, more flat



work. Poppy thought dressage was mostly dullsville — trotting round in dutiful circles; but two gifted teachers (Tony Clarke, an ex-mounted policeman, and the Olympic team rider Jane Bredin) plus the Byrds scheme with its emphasis on excellence have since fired her imagination.

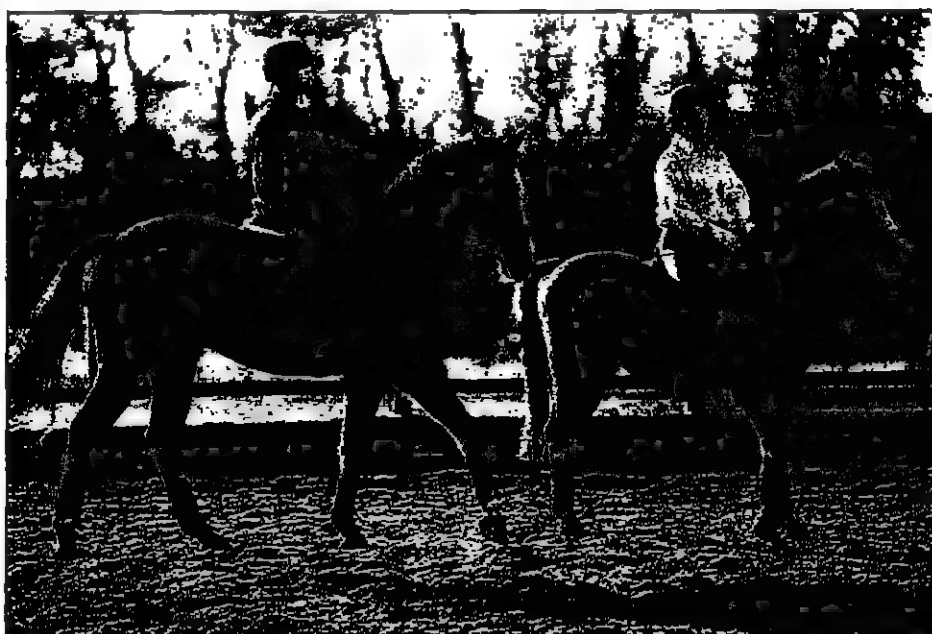
Dressage is both an art and a discipline — at its best it produces what look like lyrically happy marriages between horse and rider. The horse working with a kind of willing gaiety, the rider listening and attentive and soft with hands and aids.

Achieving this blissful state takes hours and hours of hard work. The training consists of a series of graduated steps where horse and rider work on balance, collection, suppleness, impulsion. All competitive horses have to have these building blocks in place. Done well, dressage can turn the humblest equine Ford Escort into a fabulously responsive Ferrari. (Jane Bredin turned her first £670 pony, brought from a market, into a pony club champion.) Taught badly it can bore your bottom off.

In Germany and Holland, two countries that excel in the discipline, children are taught



Under the Byrds scheme youngsters are seen by experts such as Ian Woodhead, who coaches the British pony team; he and his wife Tracey run their stables near Grimsby



Kate Elliott, left, a skilled young pony rider, is the daughter of a Grimsby fisherman

dressed in their velvet hats, white stocks, beautifully cut jackets and gleaming leather boots, they all look as though Daddy is a millionaire. In fact, even the briefest of looks at, say, last year's British pony team shows how broadly based the sport has become. Kate Elliott, a superbly skilled young pony rider, is the daughter of a Grimsby fisherman and a mother who works at Marks & Spencer.

Tim Heapey, is a doctor's son whose mother admits they put in a new arena before they could afford a stove. Sarah Millis is a hard-working teenager whose life is dedicated to training her ponies; and last year's "individual" rider at the European Championships, Charlotte Edmonds, daughter of Noel Edmonds, has had to fight for her place in this competitive world like everybody else.

"Although it's thrilling to represent your country," says Jane Kidd, the Byrds chairman, "we think it's important not to get too fixated on being in teams, but to see that what you are getting is a training from some of the top people that you will have forever."



Tracey Parker grooms the horses at the Grimsby stables

GETTING STARTED

How the Byrds scheme works: First are Talent Spotting Days. In the morning group lessons are held. In the afternoon two riders go through to the finals. Remember that it is the standard of the rider that is being assessed not the pony. There is a separate scheme for Juniors (riders above 14) and Young riders, where the standard at talent spotting is Preliminary and above.

The next step up the ladder is on a Regional Training Course where the standard is Novice and above (all dressage tests are graded from Preliminary to Novice, Medium and above). The next step is Squad Training. To be eligible, you must be recommended from regional training or have good competition results. At the top is Team Training. To be eligible you have to have taken part in squad trials throughout the year.

Lessons: Groups (from £10 an hour) and private (£35). Equipment: A black or navy coat (from £40.00 new or from £15 in the thriving market in secondhand clothes); cream or white breeches (£20 upwards); a white shirt and stock; a BHS-approved riding hat (£30); leather boots (new from £150, secondhand from £30); white or navy gloves. General inquiries on junior dressage to Karen Ryder (British Horse Society) 01203 696697.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

When the opponents bid a slam and you have KJ652 of your trump suit, you normally expect to make an entry on the "We" side of the scoresheet. I failed to do so on this TGR hand.

Dealer South	Love all	Rubber bridge
♠ A974 ♥ 10883 ♦ 44 ♣ KQ75	♠ 82 ♥ KJ682 ♦ 87652 ♣ 88	
♠ K1085 ♥ — ♦ J1083 ♣ J8884	♠ QJ3 ♥ AQ74 ♦ AKQ ♣ A102	

Final contract: Six Hearts by South

Lead: Six of clubs

After South opened 2NT a point light and admitted to a four-card heart suit over Stayman, North propelled him into Six Hearts.

The declarer won the club lead in dummy, and continued by running the ten of hearts. West discarding a spade. Receiving the bad news, declarer then led a club towards his ace. I was East. How should I defend?

I had a feeling that, if I ruffed the club, I might be ruffing a loser. In practice that does not matter, as declarer could never both draw trumps and make use of dummy's fourth club. However, had I ruffed, he could still have succeeded by throwing away the ace of clubs. He can then arrange to draw trumps, using the ace of spades and a diamond ruff as entry, and subsequently squeeze West in the black suits.

So, not ruffing was correct, but my diamond discard was

wrong. Declarer won the ace of clubs, took two spade tricks by way of the finesse, and then discarded two of dummy's spades on his high diamonds. That left him with

♠ 3 ♣ AQ7 ♦ — ♠ 10, and dummy with

♠ — ♥ 983 ♦ — ♠ K7; I had

♠ — ♥ KJ65 ♦ — ♠ —

When he ruffed the spade with a high heart, whatever I did allowed declarer to make four of the last five tricks.

Discarding a spade on the second round of clubs was correct. Then I can ruff the second round of spades and the declarer cannot pick up my remaining trumps. His only entry to dummy is a diamond ruff, when he plays trumps I insert an honour and must come to a second trump trick. □ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

QUISQUOUS

a. Whomsoever
b. The Kiwi fruit
c. Perplexing

WEDBEDRIP

a. A day's harvest
b. Marriage allowance
c. Bed-wetting

ALPHAMERIC

a. Geometric algebra
b. Letters and numbers
c. Here today, gone tomorrow

TABARD

a. A tunic
b. A weekend poet
c. A boar-hound

Answers on page 41

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Hot pursuit

The elite tournament in Las Palmas is producing a level field, with no players able to break away seriously from the pack. By and large, caution appears to be the order of the day and the only player who has displayed overtly aggressive tendencies throughout — Veselin Topalov, the Bulgarian grandmaster — has been punished by two defeats with the white pieces. He languishes in bottom place.

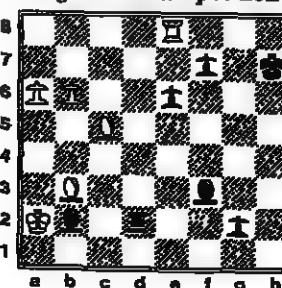
In the fourth round Kasparov was unable to overcome the resistance of Viswanathan Anand, his challenger in the world championship match last year, while Karpov and Kramnik were both content to draw their fourth consecutive game. The main excitement was provided by Ivanchuk's win against Topalov.

White: Veselin Topalov
Black: Vassily Ivanchuk
Las Palmas, December 1996

Caro-Kann Defence

1	d4	c5
2	d5	c4
3	Nc2	Nd7
4	Nxe4	Nd7
5	Ng5	Ng6
6	Bd3	Bd6
7	h3	Bd6
8	Qe2	h2
9	Ne4	Nxe4
10	Qxe4	Nf6
11	Qe2	Qc7
12	Bd2	b7
13	Bd4	Bb7
14	Kd1	Rd8
15	Rg1	c5
16	Qxc5	Qxc5
17	d3	c4
18	g4	Qd5
19	g5	Qd3

Diagram of final position



a b c d e f g h

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

White resigns

EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

Save £2 on China exhibition tickets



The Times, in association with the British Museum, gives you the opportunity to get a discount off the price of tickets for the China exhibition. Instead of the full price of £5, Times readers can buy tickets for £3 each.

The *Mysteries of Ancient China* is the first major Chinese exhibition in London for 20 years. It includes spectacular new discoveries from China's recently excavated royal tombs and sacrificial pits.

All you have to do is present the voucher below at the exhibition ticket kiosk at the British Museum. A timed ticketing system is in operation. (For further information call the British Museum on 0171-323 8783.)

You can use the advance booking system for which a £1 per ticket booking fee is charged. (You will still save £1 by quoting *The Times*.) Contact First Call on 0171-420 0000. Please bring this voucher with your ticket.

SAVE
£2

THE TIMES

EXHIBITION VOUCHER

Mysteries of Ancient China, sponsored by The Times

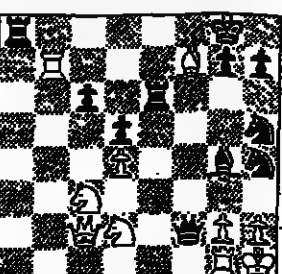
This voucher entitles the bearer to buy one ticket at the discounted price of £3.

BRITISH MUSEUM

CHANGING TIMES

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Sharov — Retinsky, Ukraine, 1995. It appears that White has just made a vital breakthrough on f7 and that now Black must lose material. However, Black had a brilliant counter in mind. How did the game continue?



Solution on page 41

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible][illegible]

Brokers

The Times 1997

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Crest Packaging, Gibbs Mew, Hill Samuel UK, Emerging, Howden Group, Jamin, MFI Furniture, Pri- or, Finals: Burnside Investments, Hunters Armley, Economica: US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills.

TOMORROW

Interims: Baring Emerging Europe Trust, Close Bros Venture, Hampton Trust, I&S Optimum Income Trust, KS Biomedix Holdings, Mondas, Finals: Chemex International, Eurotherm, Goldborough Healthcare, Kunick, Securicor, Vaux Group, Economica: UK November PSBR, US Federal Open Market Committee meeting.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Danisco, Murray Smaller Markets Trust, Zengo Holdings, Finals: Dawson Holdings, Freepages, Sperati, Tor Investment Trust, Economica: UK November retail sales, UK November unemployment, UK October average earnings, unit wage costs.

THURSDAY

Interims: Acasos & Hutchison, Asda, Jones & Shipman, Murray Spill Capital Trust, NSM, Plummer International Capital Trust, Stewart & Wight, Finals: Warner Estates, Economica: UK November provisional M4, UK November vehicle production, UK November major banking groups monthly statement, UK November building societies monthly figures, OECD economic outlook.

FRIDAY

Interims: Electric & General Investments, Forminster, Meconic, Finals: Kelsey Industries, Economica: UK final Q3 GDP, UK Q3 balance of payments, US final Q3 GDP, US November import/export price indexes.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Brokers split over Asda prospects

ASDA: An industry survey recently named the group as the fastest-growing food retailer in the sector, but the shares have been a dull market ahead of half-year figures due on Thursday. Brokers seem divided about prospects for the group, with UBS claiming that the discount to the rest of the market is too great, while NatWest Securities urges clients to take profits.

NatWest is forecasting pre-tax profits of £153 million, while UBS is expecting a figure of about £160 million. That compares with £138.3 million last time. Earnings are likely to be up by around 15 per cent, while shareholders should be rewarded with an 11 per cent increase in the payout to 0.80p a share.

Both are agreed that like-for-like sales will be up about 9 per cent, with margins flat at just under 5 per cent, ex-petrol sales, underpinned by growth in total sales of 11 per cent. In the meantime, the group will have had to contend with the apparent risks inherent within an increasingly cyclical non-food business. There will also be rising costs generated by new store openings.

MFI: The gradual revival of consumer confidence is expected to be fully reflected in half-year figures unveiled today, with pre-tax profits doubled to £40 million, although estimates range from £31.5 million to £42 million. Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, is forecasting £38 million but is happy to lift its forecast for the full year by £4 million, to £90 million, if the group achieves £40 million or more at the halfway stage. That compares with a final figure last year of £58.1 million.

The sharp recovery in the group's fortunes stems from a big increase in sales on the back of the growth being established in the housing market. Margins have also begun to improve, with Henderson looking for an improvement of between 1.5 per cent and 2 per cent as the cost of raw materials continues to fall. Meanwhile, the group is undergoing a change of image with almost half its portfolio of 30 stores already converted to the new HomeWorks format. Through its Howden



Archie Norman, chief executive of Asda, where earnings are likely to be up by 15 per cent

Joinery arm it has also successfully moved to take on the builders merchants with 20 depots already established.

SECURICOR: Brokers will be planning their hopes on a better second-half performance from the group, which unveils full-year figures tomorrow. During the first six months, pre-tax profits were just £100,000 ahead, at £47.6 million, struck after exceptional costs of £3.44 million. For the full year, Henderson Crosthwaite is looking for a final figure of £106 million (1994

million last time). Earnings are likely to have grown from 10.7p to 11.5p, with a small rise in the payout, from 1.3p to 1.5p.

Once again the biggest contribution to profits will come from its 40 per cent stake in Cellnet, the mobile-phone operator it owns jointly with BT. Brokers are expecting a modest improvement. On the other hand, the cash transit business has been giving cause for concern. Competition has been intensive, resulting in margin pressure and contract losses. Market conditions are thought to have

stabilised as the group entered the second half. The Cross Keys insurance division had a strong first half but this is unlikely to have been carried through to the second six months. The Securicor Service Provider will have been hit by a bad-debt provision totalling £4 million. This is unlikely to have been repeated in the second half. In fact, brokers are hoping that some of that provision will be ploughed back.

EUROTHERM: The strong pound is likely to take some of the gloss off an otherwise impressive

performance when the group unveils full-year figures tomorrow. At the pre-tax level profits are likely to be up around 11 per cent, at £38 million, compared with £34.1 million last time. But earnings are likely to have grown at a more sedate pace with NatWest Securities looking for a 9 per cent improvement, to 27.4p a share.

Eurotherm has struggled to accelerate earnings growth, with margins remaining under pressure. The pound's gains against its major rivals will only have served to exacerbate the situation. Second-half trading has, at best, been mixed. The domestic market remains strong but the downturn in France has deepened, while in the US demand is flat. With margins remaining under pressure, the group will be continually forced to come up with new product ranges. Even so, shareholders can expect a generous increase in the dividend, with almost 9p forecast, compared with 7.5p last time.

VAUX: Half-year figures from the North East brewer tomorrow are expected to paint a mixed picture. A strong performance from its hotel and managed pubs chains are likely to be held back by difficult trading conditions in tenanted pubs and the nursing homes. Brokers are predicting a modest increase in pre-tax profits of £3 million, to £35 million, 9 per cent up on the previous year. Costs savings should benefit the group's brewing operations with the benefits of last year's restructuring also starting to come through. But tenanted pubs will have endured difficult trading, with the performance also reflecting the transfer of some pubs over to managed.

The managed pubs arm and the Swallow hotel chain should produce some solid growth in excess of 20 per cent as business picks up and the division reaps the benefit of recent investment. Swallow is thought to be outperforming the hotel industry generally. Brokers will also be on the lookout for news of the disposal of its nursing homes operation. The dividend is expected to grow by 4 per cent, to 10.6p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

PSBR tipped to hit £2.7bn

For the week before Christmas, there is a considerable batch of British statistics to absorb and interest rate meetings in Germany and America.

In Britain, the first key figure is the public sector borrowing requirement for November, published tomorrow. According to the market consensus compiled by MMS International, the economic analyst, there is expected to be a PSBR of £2.7 billion compared with the huge £4.4 billion repayment in October, a bumper month for corporation tax receipts. On Wednesday, retail sales figures for November will be looked at with interest given recent surveys suggesting that activity on the high street has lost some momentum. The City is expecting a rise in sales of 0.5 per cent in the month, giving year-on-year growth of 3.4 per cent. This compares with a rise of 0.4 per cent in October, which gave annual growth of 4.1 per cent.

On Thursday, November M4 broad money supply is expected to have risen 0.7 per cent in the month. This would leave its year-on-year growth rate at 10.0 per cent compared with 10.3 per cent in October. M4 lending by banks and building societies is expected to have eased a little from October's high figure, while net mortgage commitments by building society lenders are expected to have kept pace with October's performance. On Friday, there are final figures for third-quarter gross domestic product, expected to be unrevised with growth in the quarter of 0.8 per cent and year-on-year growth of 2.4 per cent.

The Federal Open Market Committee meets in Washington tomorrow to discuss interest rates but there is no expectation of a rate rise. The Bundesbank's council meeting convenes on Thursday. There is no speculation of rate changes but the bank will set next year's target for M3 money supply, expected to be unchanged at 4 per cent to 7 per cent.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Bay Jarvis Hotels, MFI, TLO, Meggit, Sell Body Shop International, The Sunday Telegraph: Bay Regalian Properties, Roskys, Deltron Electronics, Sell CIA, Avoid RJ Mining, Independent on Sunday: Bay Ocean Group, Vardon, Astec, BSR, Avoid Kenwood, Sell Cadbury Schweppes, The Mail on Sunday: Buy Wembley, Harson, Mulberry, Sell Lismo.

Second chance for ostrich investors

BY A CORRESPONDENT

INVESTORS who lost millions of pounds with the collapse of the Ostrich Farming Corporation are being offered a chance to acquire shares in a successor company in the hope of recovering at least some of their original investment.

Around 2,700 people put nearly £22 million into OFC, enticed by promises of annual returns in excess of 50 per cent.

Those people now have the chance to recoup their losses by signing up with a new company called Belatruiche (UK) Plc, according to a prospectus outlining the venture. In return for their ostriches - currently being kept on farms in Belgium - and a cash outlay, the investors will have a share in the company. Investors must subscribe a minimum of 13 per cent of their original investment.

The prospectus states that investors are being offered the opportunity to invest in a company with a holding in an existing ostrich farm. Eddy Nachtergaele, a Belgian farmer who is a director of the Belgian base of Belatruiche, supplied the ostriches to OFC and they are still kept on his farms.

The company's board includes three of the original OFC investors, who are also committee members of the Ostrich Owners Protection Group. The share option must raise at least £1.5 million by January 10 for the rescue bid to go ahead. If the capital is not raised, Mr Nachtergaele will repossess the existing birds to recover fees he has incurred.

In documents filed in the High Court earlier this year, the Department of Trade and Industry alleged that directors of OFC syphoned off investors' money through disadvantageous contracts with suppliers.

OFC initially purchased ostriches direct from Mr Nachtergaele's Zooparc Amosafari company. Later, birds were purchased at much higher prices from Wall Street LLC and Wallstreet Corporation (UK), which in turn acquired the ostriches from Zooparc, the DTI alleged.

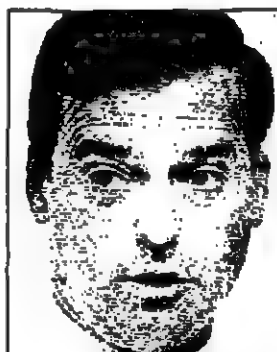
Amex in takeover frame after merger talks fail

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN EXPRESS has been left looking vulnerable to takeover or merger offers after it was disclosed that merger talks with Citicorp collapsed last week.

Discussions with Citicorp were initiated by Harvey Golub, the Amex chairman, who has held talks with John Reed, chairman of Citicorp, since November. The talks foundered on the high price of Amex, estimated to be at least \$25 billion, and the likelihood that Citicorp would have to give up its affiliation with the Visa and Mastercard credit card groups. There was also disagreement over what role Mr Golub would play in the combined group.

Amex said that it was not currently discussing the sale



Reed: discussions collapsed

of all or part of the company with anyone. If a deal had been agreed it would have far outstripped the \$11.3 billion merger of Chase Manhattan and Chemical Bank - the largest bank merger in America to date.

The aborted talks show the

pressure that US banks are under in the current wave of consolidation. So far Citicorp has stayed out of the merger and acquisition frenzy, concentrating on building its business organically.

Amex, however, has been forced to construct a new strategy because of competition from credit card groups. It has tried hard, but largely failed, to persuade US banks to issue its charge cards, so a closer link with a big banking institution such as Citicorp became the next step. Amex's enthusiasm to find a banking partner, however, emphasises its vulnerability and its concern that it is losing business.

Because of its size, there are few institutions that would be able to bid for it. Amex could, however, enter into merger talks with other leading banks.

EXCLUSIVE EXECUTIVE DIARIES IDEAL FOR PERSONAL USE OR AS GIFTS

The Times 1997 Diaries

The Times Desk Plusfile Personal Organiser

Black textured leather file with nine ring trigger mechanism and inside front and back pockets with pen loop. Stationery pack includes: 1997 diary week-to-view; 1997 and 1998 year and holiday planners; 5 section dividers; 8 A-Z dividers; 8 sheets note paper; 8 sheets graph; 8 sheets financial paper; 16 address/telephone sheets; and 8 sheets map of the world. Measures 290mm x 240mm. £49.99 inc. p&p

The Times Executive Desk Diary

Black smooth calf leather, cream interior. 1997 diary week-to-view with perforated corners, 16 pages of useful information, 8 page telephone/address section, 16 page world map section, 1998 forward planner and ribbon marker. Measures 260mm x 210mm. £35.00 inc. p&p

The Times Executive Pocket Diary

Black smooth calf leather, cream interior. 1997 landscape diary week-to-view with perforated corners, 24 pages useful information, 8 page telephone/address section, 16 page world map section, 1998 forward year planner and ribbon marker. Measures 152mm x 79mm. £15.00 inc. p&p

The Times 1997 Executive Diaries Collection

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms)				I enclose a cheque/postal order(s) made payable to: The Times Executive Diaries Collection FT001.			
Address				Value			
Post Code				No.			
First Name				Please write name and address on back of all cheques.			
Last Name				Or debit my Access/Visa card number:			
Signature				Date			
Send coupon and remittance to THE TIMES EXECUTIVE DIARIES COLLECTION FT001, PO Box 353, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 7ZZ.				Please return goods within 7 days of receipt for full refund. No claims for loss in transit can be made after 60 days. The Times cannot be held responsible for returned goods lost in transit.			
Other subject to availability. You may be sent further information on offers and services which may be of interest to you. If you do not wish to participate please tick box.							
ITEM	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL				
PLUSFILE PERSONAL ORGANISER	1	£49.99					
EXECUTIVE DESK DIARY	1	£35.00					
EXECUTIVE POCKET DIARY	1	£15.00					
TOTAL COST							

FOR ORDERS PLEASE TELEPHONE 01525 851945 (24 HOURS)

Which is easier to find?

- A. The Loch Ness Monster
- or
- B. The low fares of the big Airlines.



easyJet

Call 0990 29 29 29 anytime

All fares single excl. tax, subject to availability

RPC to acquire German specialist

By MARTIN BARROW

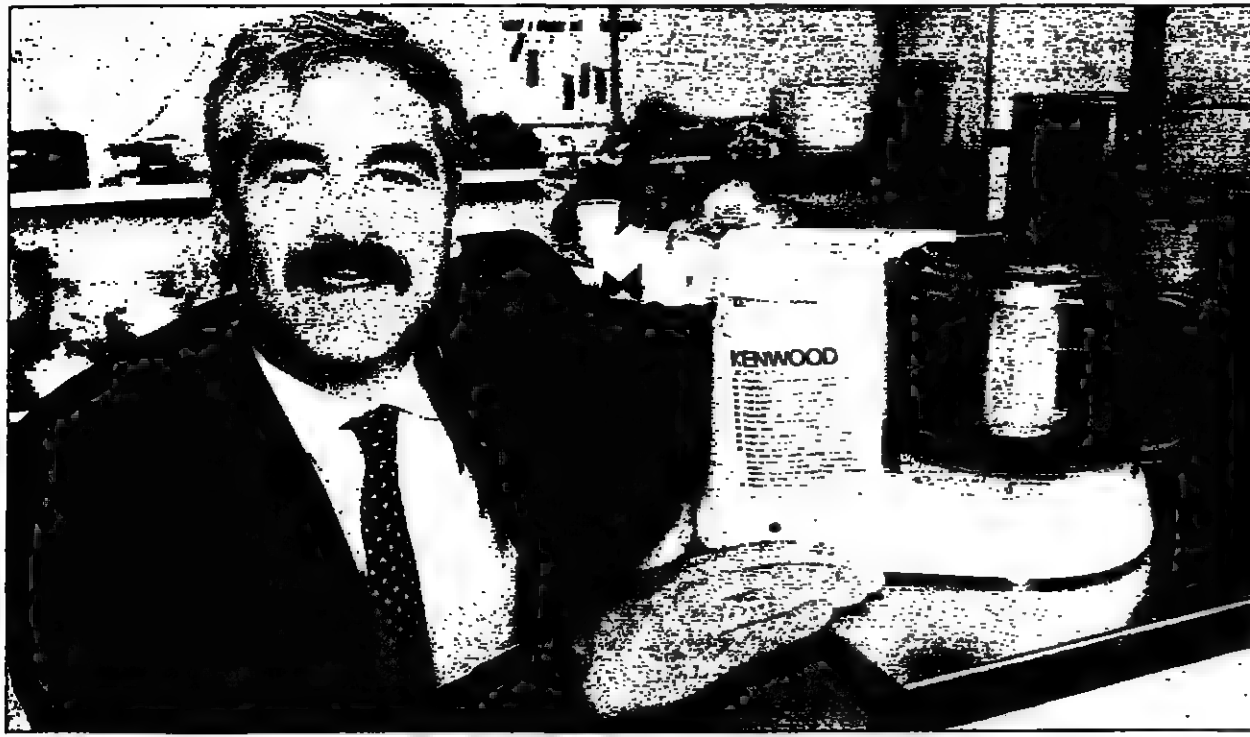
RPC, the UK plastic packaging company, is acquiring CPE, a specialist manufacturer of rigid plastic packaging primarily for the food and drinks industry, for DM160 million (£64 million).

CPE, known as Continental Plastics Europe, comprises the plastics business of Schmalbach-Lubeca, a German company, and has 12 factories in Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, Britain, Spain, Poland and Hungary.

Its largest plant is in Brennerwilde in northern Germany, where it produces tubs for margarine, and ice cream, and the main customer is Unilever. CPE also produces containers for yoghurt and dessert multipacks and vending and disposable cups. Other customers include Ferrero, Mars and Douwe Egbert.

CPE has incurred a loss in each of the last two years, recording a deficit of DM3 million in 1995. In spite of this poor performance RPC said prospects are considerably improved as a result of a reorganisation of the business undertaken this year, cutting employee numbers and costs, and the repositioning of CPE's product range in higher value-added sectors.

RPC will partly fund the acquisition via a £32.7 million rights issue, with the balance funded by bank facilities. Investors are offered two new shares for every five held at 142p each. Shareholder approval is required and there will be an extraordinary meeting on December 30.



Tim Beech, Kenwood managing director, faces tough questions about the board's rejection of approaches by Pifco

Kenwood board to ask investors for more time

By KEITH RODGERS

THE besieged board of Kenwood will today make a plea to be given more time to restore the fortunes of the troubled maker of domestic appliances. Angry shareholders are expected to pack today's extraordinary meeting, convened by UK Active Value (UKAV), to consider a proposal to put the company up for sale.

Tim Beech, managing director, will also face tough questions about the board's rejection of detailed talks with Pifco, the rival domestic appliances company. On Thursday, Pifco said that it would be unable to make an offer for the company until Kenwood made available detailed financial information. The UK expects Kenwood

management to win the backing of most shareholders against the proposal tabled by UKAV, a 9 per cent stakeholder, with the support of a further 1.4 per cent of shares. At least one big shareholder has pledged support for Kenwood, and institutions are thought to be willing to give its existing managers up to a year to resolve its problems and enhance its value. However, UKAV expects a significant number of abstentions.

The vote has been complicated by Pifco's disclosure that it has made two approaches to Kenwood and been rebuffed both times. Pifco has asked Kenwood shareholders to kick-start talks. Last week, UKAV

said that a merger of the two "appears to offer considerable potential". Although Kenwood has said that it would be "irresponsible" to hold talks with a rival unless a firm offer had been put forward, UKAV believes that Kenwood should talk to serious potential bidders and "provide them with comfort on Kenwood's balance sheet situation".

The battle over the future of Kenwood currently centres on its Italian operation, which, combined with France, accounts for 34 per cent of Kenwood's revenues. In the summer, a profits warning sent Kenwood's share price below 200p against a flotation price of 285p in 1992. Pre-tax

profits dived from £7.4 million to £3.3 million in the six months to October 4, with the two Italian subsidiaries, Aniete and Mizushi, taking much of the blame. The Italian acquisitions have detracted from Kenwood's underlying value and the quality of its brands. Some in the City also believe that its manufacturing has not been as efficient as it should be.

Kenwood has responded to UKAV's assault by promising significant changes in the way the business is run, reducing the range and number of products, cutting the time to market and continuing to overhaul its manufacturing strategy.

Gill lured from First Choice by United

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

ANOTHER boardroom departure is expected to be announced this week by First Choice Holidays, the third-biggest tour operator in the UK. David Gill, who became finance director a year ago, is set to join Manchester United in a similar role in February.

The departure is amicable, with Mr Gill, a keen football fan and a Manchester United shareholder, delighted to fill a post left empty when Robin Lauder departed for Leeds United. But the timing is unfortunate, taking place as Michael Julien, chairman of First Choice, seeks to restore confidence in the board and in his company's prospects.

Peter Long, who became managing director in November after Francis Baron was ousted as chief executive in the wake of a boardroom bust-up, will present the company's annual results on Wednesday. Mr Gill is to be succeeded by Lance Motz, who was formerly at Bass.

Merrill Lynch has pencilled in full-year profits of £17 million before tax (1995: £1 million), though it expects the figure to be a little lower when the results are announced. Airtours, the rival travel company, enjoyed a 46 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the full year to £86.6 million (1995: £59.4 million) when it reported last week. Its success was thanks largely to profits from its travel agency chain and its holiday companies in Scandinavia and Canada.

However, Airtours and Thomson, the market leader, have been referred to the MMC for alleged anti-competitive behaviour, a charge that First Choice has escaped.

Companies, page 39

Twin sandwich for Sandy

FREDERICK and David Barclay have set their hearts on the building next door to the Ritz hotel in London. Keen to cut a deal, the brothers have been currying favour with their neighbours in William Kent House on Arlington Street.

Sandy Leitch, chief executive of British American Financial Services, has his office in the building that was commissioned by Prime Minister Henry Pelham in 1740. The freehold was sold in 1947 to Eagle Star, part of BAT, and the life department moved in three years later. Poor old Sandy is trying desperately to hang on to his cubbyhole, that is sandwiched between the Ritz and Le Caprice, with a wonderful view of Green Park. But the terrible twins won't take no for an answer.

All change

IT'S all change at the British Retail Consortium, where the triumvirate is disbanding. Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover replaces Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth as president. Mark Souhami of Dixon's is standing down after two years as chairman. After six years as director-general, James May is leaving to join the UK Offshore Operators Association. Anna Robinson, former chief executive at Scope, who admits to having "limited retailing experience", will assume that role.

Dawn mission

PETER GOODCHILD, 26, a trainee solicitor from Slaughter and May, the City law firm, set off at 4am yesterday from the banks of the River Thames, attempting to scull his way into the record books and cover its entire 180-mile length in three days. The current record is six days. The distance is the same as that from London to Sheffield along the M1 motorway. He is expected to burn up 30,000 calories.

Panama paddlers

MICHAEL GRADE is investing in a Panama hat to match his foot-long cigars. The chief executive of Channel Four is off to Central America. He and two chums will be whitewater rafting in Panama. "The usual suspects", as he refers to them, sailed round the Caribbean with his last Christmas on board Gulliver, their six-berth yacht. "It's being mended, so we think it prudent to go rafting, while the bodies are still as strong as the spirit. I have been asked if this is recreational, and I suppose it is. Boys Own stuff." Or, did he say Boyzown?

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Mr Chips

THE Government is looking for a chairman to set up and run the Potato Industry Development Council for Great Britain. With a £50,000 salary for a three-day week, the successful applicant need never be short of chips. While green fingers is irrelevant, the chosen one is expected to be independent of the industry.

Guys and gals

HEART-WARMING news after my story that Harrods Bank had upset NatWest by making a move on its friends at the London Ladies Club. On hearing their "special" relationship might be at risk, Norman Chambers, manager of NatWest Belgavia, booked a seat at a recent talk by Harrods Bank at the London Ladies Club. At the same time Chambers volunteered to give a similar presentation at their next meeting, and offered NatWest's support for the new publication of the gals' newsletter, John Simmonds, Harrods Bank general manager, tells me that he is flattered by Chambers's attention.

HSBC boasts the most "down-at-heel" employees, according to the "Footsie index" conducted by Timmons, the shoe repairs chain. The number of money-off vouchers redeemed in its shops shows the runaway winners were 115 points ahead of nearest rivals NatWest Group when the final Footsie closed on Friday. To boot, £3,518 was raised for Centrepoint, the youth homelessness charity.

Turkish tiger

THE recent arrival of a multi-millionaire prodigy in London from Turkey, where his family interests include construction, telecommunications and TV, remains a mystery. Cem Uzan, in the UK to set up his new international corporate base, has been spotted brushing up his tennis at the Chelsea Harbour Club. "Right now, London is the best city in the world to do business," says the California-educated boardroom tiger.

MORAG PRESTON

Cirqual switches to main market

By FRASER NELSON

CIRQUAL, the specialist engineer, today becomes the first company to move from the Alternative Investment Market to the main exchange.

Todd, the car security company, has said it will be the second to make the move, on January 10. In spite of a disappointing run on AIM — its shares were 87p on Friday against their flotation price of 115p — it has much greater ambitions and is now raising £2.1 million to fuel them.

AIM's new issues met a cold reception last week. Oxford BioMedica, placed at 88p on Friday, lost almost half of its

market value immediately after two underwriters pulled out of the float. It closed at 47p. Yeoman Group, which makes satellite-orientated map-reading aids, opened at a 5p discount to its placing price of 175p.

AND International Publishing shot from 116p to 185p after it sought a dual listing in Amsterdam. In addition, Clubpartners fell 4p to 11p after announcing it had received an offer way below its current share price.

Trading fell overall from last week's levels, as the FT-SE AIM index closed 16.6 points easier, at 1017.90.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET									
1996	Low	High	Mid cap (million)	Price	Why	Yld	P/E	1996	Low
132	132	132	13.00	132	132	132	132	132	132
133	133	133	13.00	133	133	133	133	133	133
134	134	134	13.00	134	134	134	134	134	134
135	135	135	13.00	135	135	135	135	135	135
136	136	136	13.00	136	136	136	136	136	136
137	137	137	13.00	137	137	137	137	137	137
138	138	138	13.00	138	138	138	138	138	138
139	139	139	13.00	139	139	139	139	139	139
140	140	140	13.00	140	140	140	140	140	140
141	141	141	13.00	141	141	141	141	141	141
142	142	142	13.00	142	142	142	142	142	142
143	143	143	13.00	143	143	143	143	143	143
144	144	144	13.00	144	144	144	144	144	144
145	145	145	13.00	145	145	145	145	145	145
146	146	146	13.00	146	146	146	146	146	146
147	147	147	13.00	147	147	147	147	147	147
148	148	148	13.00	148	148	148	148	148	148
149	149	149	13.00	149	149	149	149	149	149
150	150	150	13.00	150	150	150	150	150	150
151	151	151	13.00	151	151	151	151	151	151
152	152	152	13.00	152	152	152	152	152	152
153	153	153	13.00	153	153	153	153	153	153
154	154	154	13.00	154	154	154	154	154	154
155	155	155	13.00	155	155	155	155	155	155
156	156	156	13.00	156	156	156	156	156	156
157	157	157	13.00	157	157	157	157	157	157
158	158	158	13.00	158	158	158	158	158	158
159	159	159	13.00	159	159	159	159	159	159
160	160	160	13.00	160	160	160	160	160	160
161	161	161	13.00	161	161	161	161	161	161
162	162	162	13.00	162	162	162	162	162	162
163	163	163	13.00	163	163	163	163	163	163
164	164	164	13.00	164	164	164	164	164	164
165	165	165	13.00	165	165	165	165	165	165
166	166	166	13.00	166	166	166	166	166	166
167	167	167	13.00	167	167	167	167	167	167
168	168	168	13.00	168	168	168	168	168	168
169	169	169	13.00	169	169	169	169	169	169
170	170	170	13.00	170	170	170	170	170	170
171	171	171	13.00	171	171	171	171	171	171
172	172	172	13.00	172	172	172	172	172	172
173	173	173	13.00	173	173	173	173	173	173
174	174	174	13.00	174	174	174	174	174	174
175	175	175	13.00	175	175	175	175	175	175
176	176	176	13.00	176	176	176	176	176	176
177	177	177	13.00	177	177	177	177	177	177
178	178	178	13.00	178	178	178	178	178	178
179	179	179	13.00	179	179	179	179	179	179
180	180	180	13.00	180	180	180	180	180	180
181	181	181	13.00	181	181	181	181	181	181
182	182	182	13.00	182	182	182	182	182	182
183	183	183	13.00	183	183	183	183	183	183
184	184	184	13.00	184	184	184	184	184	184
185	185	185	13.00	185	185	185	185	185	185
186	186	186	13.00	186	186	186	186	186	186
187	187	187	13.00	187	187	187	187	187	187
188	188	188	13.00	188	188	188	188	188	188
189	189	189	13.00	189	189	189	189	189	189
190	190	190	13.00	190	190	190	190	190	190
191	191	191	13.00	191	191	191	191	191	191
192	192	192	13.00	192	192	192	192	192	192
193	193	193	13.00	193	193	193	193	193	193
194	194	194	13.00	194	194	194	194	194	194
195	195	195	13.00	195	195	195	195	195	195
196	196	196	13.00	196	196	196	196	196	196
197	197	197	13.00	197	197	197	197	197	197
198	198	198	13.00	198	198	198	198	198	198
199	199	199	13.00	199	199	199	199	199	199
200	200	200	13.00	200	200	200	200	200	200



Panama rafting should not take the puff out of Michael Grade

International Internet Name Registry

Would you do business without registering your business name?

NetNames can help you protect your business name.

Call us for an application form

Protect your company, product and trading names, register them NOW.

<http://www.netnames.com>

e-mail netnames@netnames.com

Freephone 0800 269049

Friend.
Ally.
Confidante.

It's even been called
a trade paper.

Because there will always be politics. Because there will always be cutbacks. Because teachers, heads and children have but one chance to do their best, don't miss your copy of The TES every Friday.

MAKE IT PART OF YOUR CURRICULUM

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

EVERY FRIDAY

EMU fairy-tale envisions an unhappy ending in 2003

Janet Bush examines a new paper that outlines the pitfalls of economic and monetary union

DEEP-SEATED concerns about monetary union in the financial community, particularly the City of London, have prompted a new paper entitled *The Crash of 2003: An EMU Fairy Tale*.

The paper was written by David Lascelles, co-founder of the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation, after a series of round tables and workshops with financial practitioners. Many participants, including officials from the Treasury and the Bank of England, were worried that a single currency is being pursued for political reasons at the cost of Europe's eventual economic health.

Described as a "scenario, not a forecast", the paper charts an all too believable course from the

formation of a single currency in 1999 by seven countries, boasting only flimsy economic convergence, to its break up in 2003. What is left, Mr Lascelles envisions, is an EMU2 of only Germany, the Benelux countries and Austria — effectively an expanded German mark bloc as already existed in 1996.

Published to coincide with the Dublin summit, at which European leaders signed up to a compromise version of Germany's stability pact proposal, the paper concludes, in the words of Christopher Golden, head of fixed income research at Nomura International, in his foreword: "EMU is not intrinsically fatally flawed, merely premature — a project

driven by political imperatives, but which ignored practical problems to the point of failure."

Mr Lascelles suggests that EMU goes ahead as planned on January 1, 1999, with Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg and The Netherlands in the first wave. The single currency starts despite the fact that none has met the Maastricht convergence criteria. Italy and Spain follow in a second wave a year later. The UK opts out.

So EMU is launched. The Euro-

pean Central Bank, keen to establish its credibility, pursues a tough monetary line. Courtesy of buoyant economic conditions across the globe, EMU gets off to a good start, although Mr Lascelles notes, the required investment in new systems and technology wipes out six years of cost savings forecast from the single currency.

In 2000, however, world growth starts to slacken and Wall Street's heavily bought stock market suffers a big setback which sends shock waves through Europe.

EMU countries, burdened by high costs and unemployment, are particularly vulnerable.

In 2001, growth falls sharply, placing additional burdens on social security budgets and pushing the weaker EMU countries further outside the convergence criteria, risking fines under the stability pact. The stability pact rules mean that governments have to cut spending at a time when growth is slowing, so creating a downward spiral with no hope of bailing out.

In 2002 pressures are mounting in France, where Jacques Chirac faces a presidential election in June. EMU is becoming deeply unpopular and M Chirac tries to win round voters by proposing, inter alia, to abolish the stability pact and to rewrite the mandate of the ECB to emphasise its duty to promote growth (US Federal Reserve style). Germany refuses and confidence in the euro slumps.

In 2003 Brussels launches a last-ditch attempt to save EMU by proposing a federal Treasury to take over the debts of EMU countries. To work, however, the Treasury would need the power to raise taxes and control the spending of member states. Germany refuses to back the plan. France

has no choice but to leave EMU, followed by Italy, Spain and Ireland. The franc plunges 15 per cent and the Government is forced to accept a devaluation.

Britain cannot escape from the ravages of Europe-wide recession and the crisis of confidence which greets the end of the single currency dream. But it also feels vindicated in its decision not to join, having enjoyed comparatively healthier growth and employment as well as a bonanza for the City from huge growth in the offshore euro-euro market in the intervening years.

For further details, contact the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation. Tel: 0171-493 0173.

Pay awards remain on the decline in manufacturing

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

PAY awards in manufacturing industry continue to fall back, the Confederation of British Industry says today in evidence which suggests a limitation of at least one potential inflationary pressure.

The CBI's latest pay figures, released before the Government's own earnings data later this week, will please ministers hoping to avoid another increase in interest rates.

Official unemployment figures, also due this week, are expected to show a further fall in seasonally adjusted unemployment — possibly to below the two million threshold.

Before that, the CBI today

says that pay awards in manufacturing are continuing to decline, while settlements in the service sector remain broadly stable.

The latest CBI Pay Databank — a compilation of pay settlements recorded by CBI members — shows that pay awards in manufacturing provisionally averaged 2.9 per cent for the three months ending in October, compared with 3.3 per cent in the three months to July and 3.6 per cent for the same period a year ago. It brings the settlement figure to its lowest level for almost two years.

While the CBI's figures are

lower than independent pay analysts' records of wage settlements throughout the economy — which are running at about 4 per cent — they do indicate the strong price pressures still bearing down on the manufacturing sector.

More than a third of manufacturers in the CBI study said that their inability to increase prices in very tough competitive markets was a "major constraint" on pay awards. However, 25 per cent cited low profits as the principle factor, with slightly fewer pointing to the low rise in living costs and low order books. Both these factors have risen in importance since the CBI's last Databank survey three months ago.

In the service sector, which independent analysts suggest is less well covered in the CBI's settlement figures, the Confederation says that wage awards are continuing at a stable level, with little sign of pay volatility since the start of the year. In the three months to October, service sector pay awards provisionally averaged 3.5 per cent, barely down from the 3.6 per cent for the three months to July.

But current service sector pay levels are still higher than they were a year ago, when average deals were running at 2.9 per cent for the three months to October 1995.

The CBI's figures also confirm the trend in the official data on productivity, with productivity growth in CBI manufacturing companies falling back from 4.6 per cent in the second quarter of this year to 4.3 per cent now. But manufacturers still expect continuing strong productivity growth in the year ahead, at a rate of 5.3 per cent.

Venables to hear date of move for boardroom ban

By Jason Nisse

TERRY VENABLES, former coach of the England football team, will today learn when he is to face a move to have him barred as a director of UK companies.

A High Court hearing will set a date for the disqualification hearings, put back from summer after the Football Association told the court that the proceedings could interfere with Mr Venables's responsibilities in the Euro 96 championships.

Mr Venables, who recently became chairman of Portsmouth, the Nationwide League first division team, faces proceedings by the Department of Trade and Industry over his running of four companies, Tottenham Hotspur, the public company, Tottenham Hotspur Football and Athletic Club, its subsidiary, which runs the Premiership team; Scribes West, which owns a nightclub in Kensington; and Edennote, Mr Venables's investment company.

The DTI is to put forward 19 charges of "undisputed" against the former England and Spurs manager. They include 11 counts that the DTI passed to the Serious Fraud Office to investigate. The SFO decided that there were insufficient grounds for prosecution.

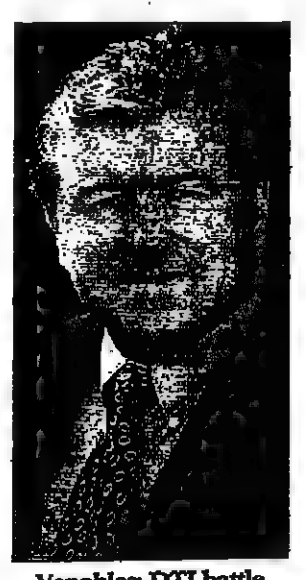
One issue is Mr Venables's relationship with Eddie Ashby, the former bankrupt installed as general manager of Spurs when Mr Venables was chief executive.

Earlier this year, Mr

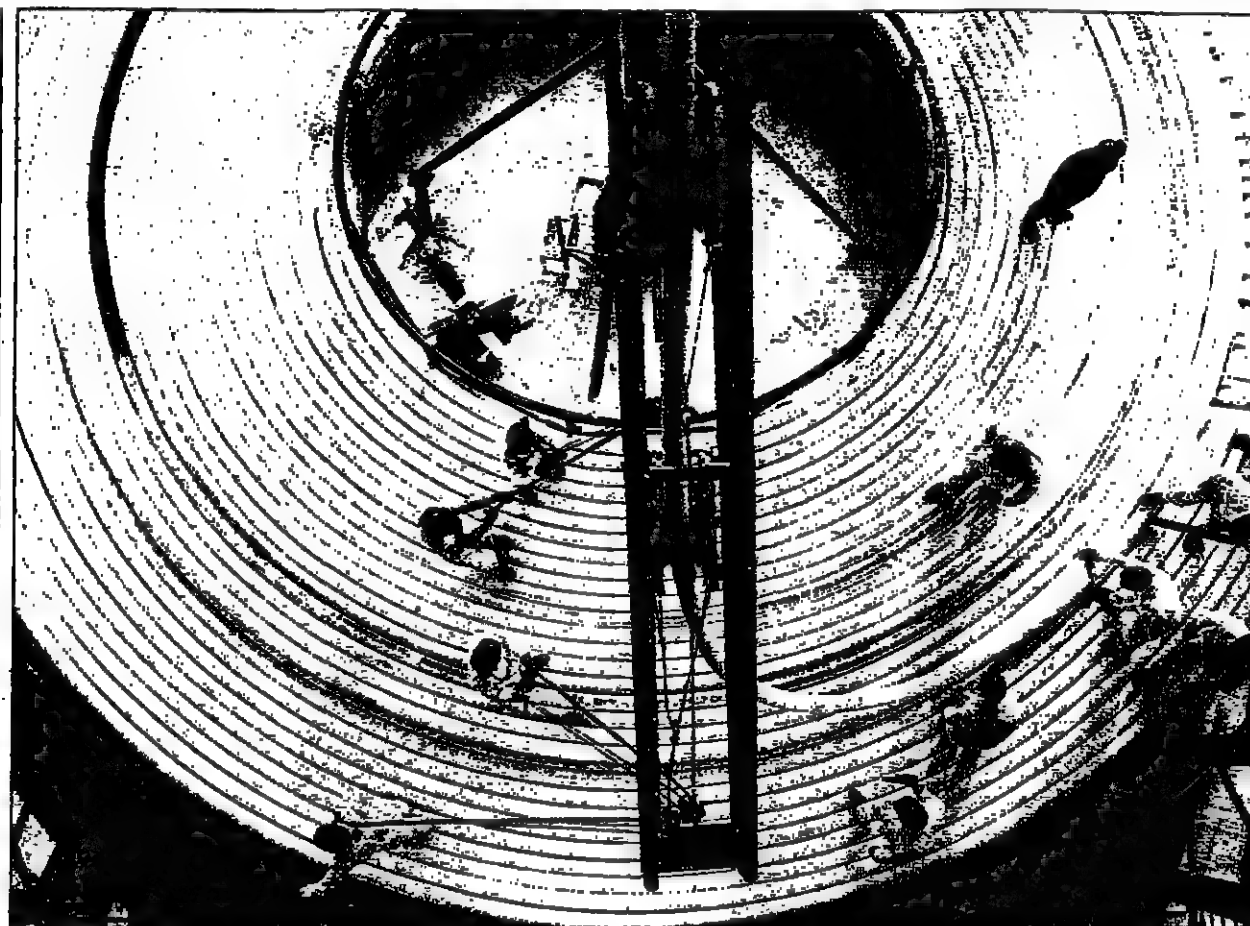
Ashby was disqualified from being a director for nine years and next year he is to face accusations that he acted as a director of the two Spurs companies and Scribes West while banned.

Before Euro 96, Mr Venables said that he would resign as coach of the England team because of the various legal battles ahead of him. These include a long-running libel fight with Alan Sugar, chairman of Tottenham Hotspur.

The latest part of that was a ruling two months ago that Mr Venables's autobiography should be pulped because of libellous comments about Mr Sugar that led to Mr Sugar receiving £100,001 in damages.



Venables: DTI target



UNDERSEA cable for the mainland link to the Isle of Wight being loaded on a ship at the BICC super-tension cable facility on the Thames at Erith in Kent. The international cables and

construction group is to invest £25 million in expanding its extra high-voltage cable production facility at Erith. The investment will enable it to manufacture submarine cables at continuous lengths of 100 kilometres or more for which there is a growing market. It involves a factory extension, new plant and facilities to transfer cable from the factory to the Thames.

Pemberstone facing 'coup'

By Jason Nisse

AN accountant from Gloucestershire will today deliver a bloody nose to Pemberstone, the quoted property company, over its plans to buy out 34 property business expansion schemes that it manages.

At a shareholders' meeting in Birmingham, Bruce Lawson, who runs an accounting firm in Tenbury Wells, will use proxies from shareholders in Roman Rentals, which operates 34 BES schemes, to vote the chairman, Milton Psyllides, a partner at Eversheds, the legal firm, off the board.

Mr Lawson, who has won support from shareholders, including David Arculus, managing director of Enmap, and Rupert Faur Walker, a City merchant banker at Samuel Munnag, will then call an extraordinary meeting at which he will oust another of Roman's directors, Andrew Bruckland, who is managing director of Pemberstone, which manages Roman Rentals through a subsidiary, Industries Management. Mr Lawson will then start the process of selling the business to property investors.

The battle started in September when Pemberstone made an offer to buy the remaining 34 Roman Rentals companies, which were started as BES schemes to invest in starter homes in Flint, North Wales. Each company owns two starter homes valued in 1991 at £35,000 each. Pemberstone's offer was worth just £25,000 a home and was also charging a 1.75 per cent commission for the offer. Mr Lawson contacted shareholders to reject the deal, which was dropped by Pemberstone in October.

Mr Psyllides said that he would then consult shareholders as to how to go forward, but none of his actions has satisfied Mr Lawson. Since then Mr Lawson has been contacted by Neil Clerk, the stockbroker, which has indicated it would offer £29,000 a home for Roman Rentals. Mr Lawson has now received proxies from 176 of the 304 shareholders in Roman Rentals and another shareholder, David Haggett, who is the senior partner of Eversheds in Birmingham has agreed to abstain.

Aerodata offer

Aerodata, the Australian provider of geophysical data for oil exploration, is to make a mandatory cash offer for Scott Pickford, the UK geoscience and engineering concern.

The offer, agreed at the weekend, will value each Scott Pickford share at 48p and the company at £6 million. The shares ended at 44p on Friday. A minority of Scott Pickford directors do not intend to recommend the offer.

The mandatory offer arises from a share exchange agreed between the two companies.

Stanhope cash

Stanhope Telecommunications, a distributor of the Personal Number Company's 07000 telephone numbers, is raising £850,000 of venture capital from CLE Development Capital and Lloyds Bank. Stanhope, one of the Personal Number Company's five regional associate dealers, has connected more than 2,000 personal numbers. It expects changes to London telephone numbers outlined by OfTel, the regulator, to increase business.

Jarvis deal

Jarvis Hotels, which floated in June, will today announce the £13.5 million purchase of the Carnarvon Hotel in west London. The hotel, on the North Circular Road, has 176 bedrooms and conference and banqueting facilities.

Banks to get result of strike ballots

By Our Business Staff

HIGH STREET banks will hear this week whether they face industrial action by staff in disputes over Christmas Eve and New Year working.

The Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu) is balloting members in Scotland and at NatWest and Lloyds TSB in two separate disputes which could lead to strikes.

Staff at NatWest and Lloyds TSB are unhappy at having to work on the afternoon of Christmas Eve and are being asked if they want to walk out from noon. The union is also balloting its 16,000 members in Scotland on whether to strike on January 2 in protest

at plans by the banks to scrap the traditional Scottish bank holiday on January 2 and switch it to a later date.

Sandy Boyle, Bifu's deputy general secretary, said: "There is no business case for opening branches and head office departments on January 2."

A union spokesman said of the two disputes: "Employers are nibbling away at our members' leisure time and they are ignoring the family nature of both Christmas and New Year."

The Scottish ballot result will be announced today and the NatWest Lloyds-TSB result tomorrow.

Japan agrees insurance deal with US

JAPAN and America have reached final agreement on a deal to open up Japan's \$400 billion insurance market to greater international competition. It was announced yesterday.

The deal will deregulate Japan's primary life, property and casualty insurance markets, in which foreign firms have a negligible share. It also delays the entry of Japan's major insurance groups into some sectors of the so-called "third market", in which foreign companies have gained a foothold. This sector includes specialty coverage such as cancer, travel and accident insurance.

Northern bid battle enters final round

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

NORTHERN ELECTRIC and CE Electric, its hostile bidder, will today begin the final round of their fierce takeover battle. The fight, which is expected to be one of the closest-run bids for a regional electricity company, has until Friday lunchtime before the £782 million offer, or 650p an ordinary share, closes.

Both companies spent the weekend courting institutions and small shareholders. With a 17 per cent stake, small shareholders are poised to play an influential role.

Prudential, Britain's largest investment group and Northern's largest shareholder

with an 11.5 per cent stake, has backed Northern's argument that CE Electric's bid undervalues the company. It has also gained the public support of Foreign & Colonial and the anonymous support of at least one other large institution.

CE Electric, the US group led by CalEnergy, has control of more than one third of Northern after it bought more than 29 per cent of shares in the market and received acceptances for more than 4 per cent. The bidder is not obliged to release further details of acceptances but is likely to do so if it gains significant take-up before Friday.

Move business faster
network
your PCs

Link your PCs and save valuable business time.
Call BT Business Connections Now
Work smarter not just harder
Freefone 0800 800 800 BT

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.18	2.02
Austria Sch	18.68	17.48
Belgium Fr	55.61	51.81
Canada \$	2.354	2.194
Cyprus Cyp£	0.806	0.751
Denmark Kr	10.35	9.55
Finland Mk	8.22	7.57
France Fr	9.04	8.39
Germany Dm	2.71	2.50
Greece Dr	421	395
Hong Kong \$	13.43	12.43
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Israel Shk	5.72	5.07
Italy Lire	2835	2480
Japan Yen	201.40	185.40
Media	0.637	0.592
Netherlands Gld	8.015	7.735
New Zealand \$	2.50	2.28
Norway Kr	11.25	10.45
Portugal Esc	259.00	250.50
\$ Africa Rd	8.42	7.52
Spain Pta	222.00	209.00
Sweden Kr	11.89	11.09
Switzerland Fr	2.30	2.12
Turkey Lira	160500	168500

WORD-WATCHING
Answers from page 36
QUISQUOUS
(c) Perplexing or puzzling. A jocular English word of cod Latin. "How extremely quisquous," you observe, truthfully, as you read your Work Shadow's long trial article.
WEDBEDRIP
(a) An agreement under which a feudal lord's tenant was bound to provide him, on request, with a day's respite from the tenant's land. Instead of admitting that you will spend the weekend (as usual, boringly) gardening, you could try impressing your colleagues with your linguistic savoir dire on Friday by saying that you have to carry out wedbedrip for your wife.
ALPHAMERIC
(b) Made up of both letters and numbers. A portmanteau word made by packing together alphabetical and numerical. The term is encountered sooner or later by all who use personal computers. "During this term James has made giant strides forwards in his handwriting, which is becoming almost alphameric."
TABARD
(a) A medieval sleeveless tunic or jacket. Today worn only by heralds and pursuivants when they change out of their grey suits. It could be revived as an archaism for a T-shirt. "Do you have any Iron Maiden tabards for my son?"
SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1... Qx7f 2 Rd7 Ng3+ 3 h3g3 Rh6 and mate is inevitable

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND	
US dollar	1.6580 (+0.0162)
German mark	2.5641 (+0.0349)
Exchange index	93.2 (+1.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	

STOCK MARKET	
FT 30 share	2738.3 (-2.4)
FTSE 100	3972.4 (+9.4)
New York Dow Jones	6304.87 (-77.08)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave	20341.39 (+64.69)

Following the DIVIDEND DECLARATION by Ford Motor Company (U.S.) on 10 October, 1996 NOTICE is now given that the following DISTRIBUTION will become payable on or after 16 December, 1996.

Gross Distribution per unit	1.92500 Cents
Less 15% USA Withholding Tax	0.28875 Cents
	1.63625 Cents
Converted at \$1.68	\$0.00973958

Claims should be lodged with the DEPOSITARY: National Westminster Bank PLC, Basement, Juno Court, 24 Prescott Street, London E1 8BB on special forms obtainable from that office.

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should mark payment of the dividend in the appropriate square on the reverse of the certificate.

All other claimants must complete the special form and present this at the above address together with the certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

Dated 16 December, 1996

7 The Fund's Offer will not be increased and will be extended beyond 1100 pm, on Friday, 20 December 1998, unless the Fund's Officers or Offer has by or on that date become so been declared as unconditional so acceptance. However, if E-Entry receives the right to increase, extend or otherwise revise the Fund's Offer, and any of them, with the consent of the Fund or its subcommittee of a compromise situation is determined by the Fund's trading.

8 The consent of E-Entry, UK plc, the members of the executive committee of E-Entry's Company Ltd, and the members of the Executive Committee of Peter Kavanagh, Inc. accept responsibility for the information contained in the advertisement and, to the best of their knowledge and belief, that holding all reasonable care to ensure that such information is true, accurate, and contained in the advertisement in accordance with the facts.

9 The consent of E-Entry, UK plc, and Peter Kavanagh, Inc. and has been approved by the US Patent and Trademark Office for the purposes of the rules 27 of the Federal Securities Act 1933, US Fund. The consent of E-Entry, UK plc, and Peter Kavanagh, Inc. and has been approved by the US Patent and Trademark Office for the purposes of the rules 27 of the Federal Securities Act 1933, US Fund. The consent of E-Entry, UK plc, and Peter Kavanagh, Inc. and has been approved by the US Patent and Trademark Office for the purposes of the rules 27 of the Federal Securities Act 1933, US Fund. The consent of E-Entry, UK plc, and Peter Kavanagh, Inc. and has been approved by the US Patent and Trademark Office for the purposes of the rules 27 of the Federal Securities Act 1933, US Fund.

Fathers and sons agreeing, finally, to differ

A less likely volunteer for a spot of television therapy than Keith Allen is difficult to imagine. Allen, you see, is a hard case, both on and off the screen, just as likely to turn up in a diary paragraph detailing his latest wild carousings as he is in the credits of *Martin Chuzzlewit* or *Shallow Grave*. If you can't quite place his face, think Gary. Yeah, you've got him - cropped hair, magnetic stare and a beguiling growl of a voice that signals serious trouble. That's Keith Allen.

Or rather that was Allen until last night's *Travels with My Camera* (Channel 4) got hold of him. Suddenly, the master of menace was all babbling therapy-speak, off on a week-long pilgrimage with his father, Eddie, to talk about the problem of absent parents, "to go back and trigger a few memories" and to recognise the importance of "never losing the boy within".

It was all very disconcerting. Would this man ever be able to trash the Groucho Club with a straight face again? To come, however, to the programme was out, Allen would shed tears (well, at least one) and tell us how much he loved his old dad. The professional hard case, it appears, has a distinctly soft centre. Ah, isn't that nice. And so close to Christmas too.

This voyage of very personal self-discovery could have been, indeed should have been, excruciating. The fact that it wasn't was down to Allen's rougish charm, his father's pained sincerity and the cracking story the pair of them had to relate - the tale of Allen junior's near definitive mis-spent youth.

Taking a film crew with them (a sensible precaution given the programme's title) they visited the suburbs that kept Eddie away from home for so long, the public school in Essex that Keith won a

naval scholarship to only to get expelled a term or two later and an overcast Llandelli, where in the bosom of his extended family, he began a dual career as an apprentice lithographic printer and "the most useless thief on the planet". After that, it was mainly borsals.

Father and son agreed about virtually nothing, as a discussion with a group of young offenders made clear. "The joke is," explained Keith, "I've become a right reactionary Tory and he's become a leftie. I'm just to prove it, he went off to shout at his own son, Alfie, for failing to do his math's homework properly. 'You can do it, it's just your're boudie.' This, from a man who could still recall the devastating impact of one of his father's tuts of disapproval, was painful to watch. Alfie, however, had his revenge, confirming - as perhaps the whole film had - that it is the



Matthew Bond

destiny of all men to turn into their fathers. As it all got a bit painful, after Eddie had surprised everybody by confessing that he too had been in trouble with the police just once, his son and grandson sat on a cliff staring reflectively out to sea. "Dad..." began Alfie, "do you think you're self-centred?" Lovely. David Hyde Pierce is about as far away from Keith Allen as it possible for an actor to be. As the

scene-stealing Niles in *Frazier* (Channel 4, Friday) he's more a soft case with a positively goey centre. But he has his moments, as the two episodes that marked the end of the current series showed. Parked two blocks away from Seaside's apparently dangerous dock area, Niles maintained a state of constant vigilance. "I've been wearing my 'I'm dangerous' face for so long, it's beginning to hurt."

Then there was the new dangerous edge his relationship with Daphne (Jane Leeves) has acquired, courtesy of a row sparked - and this is difficult to explain - by the cost of removing a fleck of *foie gras* from a Jackson Pollock. "Mama, that was glorious," he subsided, "I think I shall have some of her spit on my forehead."

The development of Niles and Daphne as characters and the performances of Hyde Pierce and Leeves therein are two of the

reasons why this long-running comedy had risen to new heights in this series. Another is the writing, which has maintained an standard that puts most British sitcoms to shame.

"Why is it so easy to love our family and so difficult to like them," moaned Daphne, as she wrestled with the choice between a duty trip back to Manchester or the pursuit of pleasure in Acapulco. "That's one of the questions that makes life so rich..." replied Frazier (the superlative Kelsey Grammer), "...and psychologists even richer."

That, in a round about sort of way, was also one of the questions addressed by *TX: Dreamgirls* - *The Photographs of Guy Bourdin* (BBC2, Saturday). Bourdin's mother had red hair and wore lots of make up, which is why - according to a whole host of witnesses - this

somewhat forgotten French photographer spent the 1970s photographing women with red hair, make-up and, apart from an obligatory pair of high heels, very little else. What Helmut Newton did - indeed still does - in black and white, Bourdin did in colour. Or as one follower put it: "His work was like candy... with sex."

Another expert recalled how he used to rush to French Vogue every month: "Just to see how the battle between Bourdin and Newton was going." Of course he did. The fact that both men were exploring the limits to which sadomasochistic sexual imagery could be used in fashion photography at the time was quite incidental.

Nicola Roberts's good-looking film was fascinating for about half an hour but ran out of steam, photographs and biographical detail badly after that. It can't really have been his mother's fault - can it?

- BBC1**
- 6.00am **BUSINESS BREAKFAST** (21784) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (2) (20255) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (1) (1369074)
 - 9.30 **STYLE CHALLENGE** (477293)
 - 9.45 **KILROY** (8435142)
 - 10.30 **CANT COOK, WONT COOK** with Ainsley Harriott (21500)
 - 11.00 **NEWS** (7) regional news and weather (3135328)
 - 11.05 **THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW** Consumer advice (5135239)
 - 11.45 **SMILLIE'S PEOPLE** (2783030)
 - 12.00 **NEWS** (7) and weather (5270023)
 - 12.05pm **QUINCY** (3245887)
 - 12.50 **THE WEATHER SHOW** (30545784)
 - 1.00 **NEWS** (7) and weather (55142) 1.30 Regional News (7270610)
 - 1.40 **NEWS** (7) (25585326) 2.00 Call My Bluff (824) 2.30 Who'll Be The Pudding? Last in the series (806) 3.00 Incongruity (1852)
 - 3.30 **THE BUSY WORLD OF RICHARD SCARRY** (1472264) 3.55 Bogger and Badger (4709018) 4.10 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (1747448) 4.35 Record Breakers (7) (7520601) 5.00 Newsworld (7) (5184822) 5.10 Blue Peter (7) (843425)
 - 5.35 **NEIGHBOURS** (7) (7) (54148)
 - 6.00 **NEWS** (7) and weather (535)
 - 6.30 **REGIONAL NEWS** (887)
 - 7.00 **TALLY ADDICTS** Noel Edmonds hosts the final of the light-hearted television trivia quiz (7) (8087)
 - 7.30 **TOMORROW'S WORLD** Includes a report on the first successful breeding of fish in space (7) (671)
 - 8.00 **EASTENDERS** Tiffany takes control at the Vic (7) (2551)
 - 8.30 **CHER** As Cher struggles to come to terms with her father's death, she arrives to rub salt in his wounds (7) (4518)
 - 9.00 **NEWS** (7) regional news and weather (2328)
 - 9.30 **THE THIN BLUE LINE** (31m goes on the trail of some dangerous card singers (7) (7) (33887)
 - 10.00 **BILLY CONNOLLY'S WORLD TOUR OF AUSTRALIA** reaches its climax in Darwin (7) (847813)
 - 10.40 **COMMON AS MUCK** Comedy drama about a crew of dustmen (7) (7) (813622)
 - 11.40 **FILM AS WITH BARRY NORMAN** Includes reviews of *Evita* starring Madonna, *Surviving Picasso* starring Anthony Hopkins, *Daylight* starring Sylvester Stallone, and *Medicine*, based on Rodd Dahl's children's tale, starring and directed by Danny DeVito. Plus, Kenneth Branagh talks about his four-hour adaptation of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, due for release in the new year (7) (795142)
 - 2.55 **WEATHER** (9145758)

- BBC2**
- 6.00am **OPEN UNIVERSITY: Talking On** (7871158) 6.25 Caught in Time (7868393) 6.50 Science Skills (8260555) 7.15 Sea Heat Breakfast News (2843142) 7.30 Yakyak Duck (5771328) 7.50 Blue Peter (1062326) 8.20 Cheeky Chalk (7865355) 8.35 Laessle (698148) 9.00 The Complete Guide to the 20th Century (1868448) 9.10 Song of Survival (5219142) 10.00 Playdays (2342353) 10.25 The Champions (8013968) 11.15 The Phil Silvers Show (4123036) 11.40 Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars (4482023) 12.00 Operation Survival (18622) 12.30pm Working Lunch (44903) 1.00 Charlie Chalk (9565794)
 - 1.15 **FILM: Fanny by Gaslight** (1948, b/w) Turn-of-the-century melodrama, starring Phyllis Calvert, James Mason and Wilfrid Lawson. Directed by Anthony Asquith (72379831)
 - 3.00 **NEWS** (7) and weather (7972326)
 - 3.05 **THE NATURAL WORLD** (7) (2380264)
 - 3.55 **NEWS** (7) and weather (8648332)
 - 4.00 **TODAY'S THE DAY** (500) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook! (784) 5.00 Esther (1226) 5.30 Going, Going, Gone (254) 6.00 Space Predict (963887)
 - 6.45 **AS SEEN ON TV** (7) (408142)
 - 7.00 **1914-18: Collapse** (b/w) Germany mounts a last desperate offensive and the Allied armies are boosted by the arrival of the Americans (7) (189428)
 - 7.50 **A WEEK TO REMEMBER** (b/w) (749087)
 - 8.00 **HORIZON: Noah's Flood** Two geologists travel to the Black Sea to unveil the results of a 30-year investigation into whether the biblical flood actually occurred (7) (786987)
 - 8.50 **GARDENERS' WORLD TAKE TWO** Featuring Derek Jarman's seaside garden at Dungeness (7) (906887)
 - 9.00 **WICKED WOMEN: Gethy** Newly-elected MP Jessie Flinders introduces a Bill to end hunting. An supporter of the hunt on the east coast comes back to hunt her. With Clare Holman (7) (1897)
 - 10.30 **NEWSNIGHT** (7) (815177)
 - 11.15 **LOOKING FOR TAT** New five-part series about London's homeless (233968)
 - 11.25 **PICTURE THIS** (7) (2454): *Shogun* in a Shogun.
 - 12.00 **THE MIDNIGHT HOUR** (15096)
 - 12.30am **THE LEARNING ZONE: Open University: Representing the 'People'** (42814) 1.30 A Level Playing Field (72455) 2.00 *Reveling The Long* (252588) 2.15 *Once Upon a Time* (252588) 2.30 *Focus: Italia 2000* (80349) 4.30 Defeating Disease (46543) 5.00 Pathways to Care (21748) 5.30-6.00 RCI Nursing Update (16727)

- CHOICE**
- Horizon: Noah's Flood** BBC2, 8.00pm Two colourful Americans, Walter Pitman and Bill Ryan, with a little help from some colleagues, set off to find the scientific justification for the great biblical flood. Did the Old Testament story of Noah really happen and, if so, when and where? More than 7,500 years after the supposed event, you would hardly expect a definitive answer. But all their scholarly know-how, Pitman and Ryan are often driven back on speculation. But they are an entertaining pair, never guilty of taking themselves too seriously, and as they travel to the Black Sea, putative site of a great flood in around 5,000 BC, the excitement of their detective work is palpable. It makes a consistently absorbing film and one which is not afraid to carry the views of experts who challenge Pitman and Ryan and suggest that they may be verging on the world of fantasy.
 - Wicked Women: Giving Tongue** BBC2, 9.00pm Emma Fortune's political satire may be taking a chance by assuming that Labour will win the next election. But once the premise is accepted, everything flows logically. Clare Holman plays Jessie, a bright new Labour MP who introduces a Private Member's Bill to ban hunting. It hardly seems a political earthquake until the Government uses the measure to take on the House of Lords and a constitutional crisis looms. Meanwhile it emerges that Jess's young husband has a sexually compromising past which, if revealed, could cover her with embarrassment. As Jessie tries to manipulate her way out of trouble, Fortune piles on the irony. Charlotte Coleman co-stars as Jessie's childhood friend and Warren Clarke essays a wonderful cameo as a cynical Commons clerk.
 - Secret Lives: Enid Blyton** Channel 4, 9.00pm Enid Blyton is ripe for demolition, and if the job has been done before (not least on television) the story never palls. For newcomers it goes like this. Blyton was as prolific as words a day on a battered typewriter and enduring generations of children with her simple, wholesome tales of happy family life. Her own life, however, was nothing like the image she so carefully projected. She had little time for her own children, who were shipped off to nannies and boarding schools. Her younger daughter says she hardly knew who her mother was. After the marriage broke up the girls' father never saw them again. A particularly sinister streak in Blyton was putting people who angered her as baddies in her stories. And she shocked her gardener by playing tennis in the nude.
 - The Preventers** ITV, 10.40pm An Australian media tycoon called Roger Steno Morlock (who could they possibly be thinking of?) is trying to brainwash television viewers into thinking it is the 1960s. He must be stopped. Enter The Preventers, a team of troublemakers played by Morwenna Banks, Chris England and Robert Harley. They also write this spoof of 1960s action shows, such as *The Champions* and *The Avengers*, which comes to the screen by way of the Edinburgh Fringe and Radio 4. The challenge for such a project is to parody something which already has its tongue in its cheek. If this sometimes proves difficult, Banks and company have captured the slick visual style of the original as well as the banalities of its dialogue. In a nice joke, William Gatt, once of *The Champions*, plays the trio's controller. Peter Wyndham

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (7821081)
 - 6.25 **CAPTAIN SIMIAN AND THE SPACE MONKEYS** (7) (4765332)
 - 9.30 **STEP BY STEP** (7) (2244229)
 - 10.20 **NEWS** (3549142)
 - 10.25 **REGIONAL NEWS** (3548143)
 - 10.30 **DANIELLE STEEL'S HEARTBEAT** (7) (23216142)
 - 12.10pm **DAFFY DUCK** (8276142)
 - 12.20 **REGIONAL NEWS** (7797777)
 - 12.30 **NEWS** (9654808)
 - 12.55 **CORONATION STREET** (7) (9320055) 2.00 Home and Away (7) (8883500) 2.25 Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (7) (9210055)
 - 3.20 **ITN NEWS** (7052516)
 - 3.25 **REGIONAL NEWS** (7051887)
 - 3.30 **TOTTS TV** (4080689) 3.40 The Slow Norris (1052310) 3.50 Cartoon (1157622) 4.00 Cincinnati A Wolves, Whishes and Glories Special (2/2) (8251351) 4.15 Society and Co's Christmas Special (5028429) 4.30 How 2 (7) (8511413)
 - 5.10 **BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT** (7218429)
 - 6.00 **NEWS** (7) and weather (867871)
 - 6.40 **HOME AND AWAY** (7) (7) (530993)
 - 6.25 **HTV NEWS** (7) (808968)
 - 7.00 **THE LIST** (1429)
 - 7.30 **CORONATION STREET** Roy feels pressured by Alec (7) (236)
 - 8.00 **SURVIVAL: Mountains of the Snow Leopard** - The Prize Concluding the two-part journey to Mongolia in search of some of the world's most endangered species (7) (1167)
 - 8.30 **FILM: Police Academy 2 - Their First Assignment** (1985) with Steve Guttenberg and Bubba Smith. The recruits are assigned to the toughest precinct in town. Directed by Jerry Paris (7) (44808)
 - 10.00 **NEWS** (7) and weather (1177)
 - 10.30 **REGIONAL NEWS** (727581)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55pm **HOME AND AWAY** (8566897)
 - 1.25 **THE SIMPSONS** (30280158)
 - 1.55 **A COUNTRY PRACTICE** (25653429)
 - 2.20-3.20 **BLUE HEELERS** (8363697)
 - 5.10-5.40 **SHORTLAND STREET** (7218429)
 - 6.25 **CENTRAL NEWS** (809968)
 - 7.00-7.30 **BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT** (1429)
 - 11.10 **Film: DEAD RECKONING** (720719)
 - 1.00pm **FOOTBALL LEAGUE** (7564920)
 - 1.45 **CUSTOMS CLASSIFIED** (4761456)
 - 2.30 **JONES AND JURY** (4647494)
 - 2.50 **Film: SHADOW OF THE EAGLE** (758333)
 - 4.35 **CYBERCAFE** (79768340)

- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
 - 1.25-1.55 **MASTERCRAFT** (30280158)
 - 1.55 **HOME AND AWAY** (2118210)
 - 2.25 **BISSELL'S WESTCOUNTRY CHRISTMAS** (50214577)
 - 2.55 **A COUNTRY PRACTICE** (5511466)
 - 5.10-5.40 **HOME AND AWAY** (7218429)
 - 6.00 **WESTCOUNTRY LIVE** (43210)
 - 7.00-7.30 **BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT** (1429)
 - 11.10 **Film: MY BLUE HEAVEN** (245603)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.30am **TAKE FIVE** (13622)
 - 7.00 **THE BIG BREAKFAST** (41993)
 - 9.00 **FILM: FOR - THE LAST YEAR** (1980) Jason Robards stars in this biopic about the final year in the life of President Roosevelt. Directed by Anthony Page (7) (857448)
 - 12.00 **RIGHT TO REPLY** (7) (7) (87090)
 - 12.30pm **A Box Full of Stories** (30061)
 - 1.00 **Sesame Street** (34516)
 - 2.00 **FILM: Diane** (1955) Costume drama starring Lena Turner and Roger Moore. Directed by David Miller (8806)
 - 4.00 **FIFTEEN-TO-ONE** (7) (668) 4.30 Countdown (7) (852) 5.00 The Montel Williams Show (7) (2382177) 5.45 **Pond Life** (7) (331158)
 - 6.00 **MOVIEWATCH** Reviews of *Road to Damascus*, *Surviving Picasso* and the thriller *Daylight* (245)
 - 6.30 **HOLLYOAKS** (7) (897)
 - 7.00 **CHANNEL 4 NEWS** (7) (233351)
 - 7.55 **THE SLOT** (59554)
 - 8.00 **DESPERATELY SEEKING** SOMETHING Pete McCarthy meets an alternative Christian group called the Summit Lighthouse. Last in the series (7) (8718)
 - 8.30 **THE REAL HOLIDAY SHOW** Reports made by holidaymakers from Memphis, Switzerland and Tenerife. Last in series (7) (4326)



Clare Holman as a new MP (9.00pm)



Harley, Banks and England (10.40pm)



Enid Blyton unmasked (8pm)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers on the Video PlusCodes, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ (V+) code, are the Video PlusCodes for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (V+) codes are the Video PlusCodes and are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

- SKY 1**
- 7.00am Love Connection (4234871) 7.20 Press Your Luck (4235779) 7.40 Jeopardy! (4235779) 8.10 100% (4235779) 8.30 Another World (3970705) 9.45 The Oprah Winfrey Show (729177) 10.40 Real TV (1413) 10.50 100% (4235779) 11.00 100% (4235779) 11.10 100% (4235779) 11.20 100% (4235779) 11.30 100% (4235779) 11.40 100% (4235779) 11.50 100% (4235779) 12.00 100% (4235779) 12.10 100% (4235779) 12.20 100% (4235779) 12.30 100% (4235779) 12.40 100% (4235779) 12.50 100% (4235779) 1.00 100% (4235779) 1.10 100% (4235779) 1.20 100% (4235779) 1.30 100% (4235779) 1.40 100% (4235779) 1.50 100% (4235779) 2.00 100% (4235779) 2.10 100% (4235779) 2.20 100% (4235779) 2.30 100% (4235779) 2.40 100% (4235779) 2.50 100% (4235779) 3.00 100% (4235779) 3.10 100% (4235779) 3.20 100% (4235779) 3.30 100% (4235779) 3.40 100% (4235779) 3.50 100% (4235779) 4.00 100% (4235779) 4.10 100% (4235779) 4.20 100% (4235779) 4.30 100% (4235779) 4.40 100% (4235779) 4.50 100% (4235779) 5.00 100% (4235779) 5.10 100% (4235779) 5.20 100% (4235779) 5.30 100% (4235779) 5.40 100% (4235779) 5.50 100% (4235779) 6.00 100% (4235779) 6.10 100% (4235779) 6.20 100% (4235779) 6.30 100% (4235779) 6.40 100% (4235779) 6.50 100% (4235779) 7.00 100% (4235779) 7.10 100% (4235779) 7.20 100% (4235779) 7.30 100% (4235779) 7.40 100% (4235779) 7.50 100% (4235779) 8.00 100% (4235779) 8.10 100% (4235779) 8.20 100% (4235779) 8.30 100% (4235779) 8.40 100% (4235779) 8.50 100% (4235779) 9.00 100% (4235779) 9.10 100% (4235779) 9.20 100% (4235779) 9.30 100% (4235779) 9.40 100% (4235779) 9.50 100% (4235779) 10.00 100% (4235779) 10.10 100% (4235779) 10.20 100% (4235779) 10.30 100% (4235779) 10.40 100% (4235779) 10.50 100% (4235779) 11.00 100% (4235779) 11.10 100% (4235779) 11.20 100% (4235779) 11.30 100% (4235779) 11.40 100% (4235779) 11.50 100% (4235779) 12.00 100% (4235779) 12.10 100% (4235779) 12.20 100% (4235779) 12.30 100% (4235779) 12.40 100% (4235779) 12.50 100% (4235779) 1.00 100% (4235779) 1.10 100% (4235779) 1.20 100% (4235779) 1.30 100% (4235779) 1.40 100% (4235779) 1.50 100% (4235779) 2.00 100% (4235779) 2.10 100% (4235779) 2.20 100% (4235779) 2.30 100% (4235779) 2.40 100% (4235779) 2.50 100% (4235779) 3.00 100% (4235779) 3.10 100% (4235779) 3.20 100% (4235779) 3.30 100% (4235779) 3.40 100% (4235779) 3.50 100% (4235779) 4.00 100% (4235779) 4.10 100% (4235779) 4.20 100% (4235779) 4.30 100% (4235779) 4.40 100% (4235779) 4.50 100% (4235779) 5.00 100% (4235779) 5.10 100% (4235779) 5.20 100% (4235779) 5.30 100% (4235779) 5.40 100% (4235779) 5.50 100% (4235779) 6.00 100% (4235779) 6.10 100% (4235779) 6.20 100% (4235779) 6.30 100% (4235779) 6.40 100% (4235779) 6.50 100% (4235779) 7.00 100% (4235779) 7.10 100% (4235779) 7.20 100% (4235779) 7.30 100% (4235779) 7.40 100% (4235779) 7.50 100% (4235779) 8.00 100% (4235779) 8.10 100% (4235779) 8.20 100% (4235779) 8.30 100% (4235779) 8.40 100% (4235779) 8.50 100% (4235779) 9.00 100% (4235779) 9.10 100% (4235779) 9.20 100% (4235779) 9.30 100% (4235779) 9.40 100% (4235779) 9.50 100% (4235779) 10.00 100% (4235779) 10.10 100% (4235779) 10.20 100% (4235779) 10.30 100% (4235779) 10.40 100% (4235779) 10.50 100% (4235779) 11.00 100% (4235779) 11.10 100% (4235779) 11.20 100% (4235779) 11.30 100% (4235779) 11.40 100% (4235779) 11.50 100% (4235779) 12.00 100% (4235779) 12.10 100% (4235779) 12.20 100% (4235779) 12.30 100% (4235779) 12.40 100% (4235779) 12.50 100% (4235779) 1.00 100% (4235779) 1.10 100% (4235779) 1.20 100% (4235779) 1.30 100% (4235779) 1.40 100% (4235779) 1.50 100% (4235779) 2.00 100% (4235779) 2.10 100% (4235779) 2.20 100% (4235779) 2.30 100% (4235779) 2.40 100% (4235779) 2.50 100% (4235779) 3.00 100% (4235779) 3.10 100% (4235779) 3.20 100% (4235779) 3.30 100% (4235779) 3.40 100% (4235779) 3.50 100% (4235779) 4.00 100% (4235779) 4.10 100% (4235779) 4.20 100% (4235779) 4.30 100% (4235779) 4.40 100% (4235779) 4.50 100% (4235779) 5.00 100% (4235779) 5.10 100% (4235779) 5.20 100% (4235779) 5.30 100% (4235779) 5.40 100% (4235779) 5.50 100% (4235779) 6.00 100% (4235779) 6.10 100% (4235779) 6.20 100% (4235779) 6.30 100% (4235779) 6.40 100% (4235779) 6.50 100% (4235779) 7.00 100% (4235779) 7.10 100% (4235779) 7.20 100% (4235779) 7.30 100% (4235779) 7.40 100% (4235779) 7.50 100% (4235779) 8.00 100% (4235779) 8.10 100% (4235779) 8.20 100% (4235779) 8.30 100% (4235779) 8.40 100% (4235779) 8.50 100% (4235779) 9.00 100% (4235779) 9.10 100% (4235779) 9.20 100% (4235779) 9.30 100% (4235779) 9.40 100% (4235779) 9.50 100% (4235779) 10.00 100% (4235779) 10.10 100% (4235779) 10.20 100% (4235779) 10.30 100% (4235779) 10.40 100% (4235779) 10.50 100% (4235779) 11.00 100% (4235779) 11.10 100% (4235779) 11.20 100% (4235779) 11.30 100% (4235779) 11.40 100% (4235779) 11.50 100% (4235779) 12.00 100% (4235779) 12.10 100% (4235779) 12.20 100% (

COMPANIES 39

Brokers split
over Asda's
prospects

BUSINESS

MONDAY DECEMBER 16 1996

BESIEGED 40

Kenwood asks
investors for
more time



BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK



Merrill Christmas to you: Merrill Lynch, the merchant bank, opened its doors yesterday to 400 of London's senior citizens, allowing them to make phone calls to friends and relatives around the world for up to 30 minutes at a time. Among them were left to right, Chelsea pensioners Tom Scott, Edward Brassington, Jack Judge and Jim Neay

Delta talks collapse

MERGER talks between Delta Airlines and Continental Airlines, which would have created the world's largest carrier, have collapsed (Richard Thomson writes).

Continental, the fifth largest airline in the US, approached Delta, the third largest, last week about a deal. However, the failure of the talks leaves Continental looking vulnerable and seeking other possible partners.

The planned partnership between British Airways and American Airlines, which was given conditional approval by the UK authorities last week, is causing concern in the US airline industry. Gordon Bethune, Continental's chairman, said a BA-AA merger would cause consolidation in the industry.

Continental emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection less than three years ago and is still regarded as one of the weakest of the main airline companies. Merger with Delta would have created a company with a quarter of the US air market but Continental is now likely to find a smaller airline with which to merge.

McDonnell Douglas and Boeing in \$13bn merger

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

BOEING and McDonnell Douglas, the US aircraft manufacturers, have agreed to a \$13.3 billion merger to form the world's largest aerospace company, in a move that poses a major challenge to Airbus Industrie, the European consortium.

The deal creates a company with 200,000 employees, sales of around \$50 billion a year, with more than a 50 per cent share of the world's commercial airline market and a combined order book of more than \$100 billion.

Harry Stonecipher, chief executive of McDonnell Douglas, said: "This transaction puts together a focused, broadly based aerospace company with extraordinary capabilities in commercial and military aircraft, and defence and space systems."

Mr Stonecipher, who will move from his company's base in St Louis to Seattle, Boeing's headquarters, will be chief operating officer of the merged company, responsible for day-to-day operations.

Phil Condit, chief executive of Boeing, will be chairman and chief executive. The all-

paper deal will give 0.65 Boeing shares for each McDonnell Douglas share, valuing the deal at \$13.3 billion. Mr Condit said that he did not expect major anti-trust problems because the businesses of the companies were largely complementary.

Mr Condit said the companies had been discussing a merger for three years but a deal was finally hammered out last Tuesday. The marriage was prefigured two weeks ago in a co-operation agreement in which several thousand McDonnell Douglas employees would help to develop two new versions of Boeing's 747 aircraft.

The new company will be the world's largest manufacturer of commercial and military aircraft. Although Boeing has been building up its military aircraft capability, the acquisition of McDonnell Douglas, the largest military aircraft maker, will push it ahead of its rivals.

McDonnell Douglas makes the F/A-18 fighter, the C-17 Globemaster transport plane and the AH-64 Apache helicopter. There are no plans at this stage to stop manufacturing its commercial airliners.

The deal is not primarily driven by expected cost sav-

ings but by the need to solve the different problems of each company. McDonnell Douglas, the world's third-largest aircraft maker, has suffered several blows this year, including being dropped from the bidding to build a new fighter aircraft for the Pentagon. It also announced that it was abandoning the development of a commercial airliner because of the high costs. Many in the industry believe the company would have had to scale back its traditional manufacturing and find a new role if it had not merged.

Boeing, meanwhile, has enjoyed remarkable success in attracting new business. It is one of the bidders for the new fighter contract, but it has also attracted orders this year for more than 650 commercial aircraft, raising fears that its workforce might not be big enough to fill the orders in time. Its co-operation agreement with McDonnell Douglas was designed partly to solve this problem.

For Boeing, the deal follows its purchase three months ago of Rockwell, an aerospace and defence group. It comes after a series of large mergers in the US defence industry prompted by the fall in spending after the end of the Cold War.



Condit: chairman and chief executive of merged company



Stonecipher: to be responsible for day-to-day operations

Mega headache for Airbus

EUROPEAN aerospace and defence companies will be alarmed at yet another American mega merger (Carl Morrison writes). The prospect of aggressive cost-cutting at Boeing as it absorbs the McDonnell Douglas civil aircraft operations will be a major challenge to Airbus Industrie.

European defence companies, already dwarfed by last year's merger of Lockheed and Martin Marietta, also now face another huge defence combine. In August, Boeing acquired Rockwell International's defence business and is competing with Lockheed Martin to build the Joint Strike Fighter. The merger with McDonnell

Douglas will bring with it the maker of the F-15 and F/A-18 fighters.

A Boeing/McDonnell merger will be a spur to the partners of Airbus Industrie, in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent interest, to rationalise their cumbersome venture. Airbus has 30 per cent of the civil aircraft market but the merger of the first and third largest players should create large economies of scale. Both Boeing and Airbus plan a new 300-plus seater aircraft to succeed the Jumbo. Boeing plans a cheap stretched version of its 747-400 but Airbus is starting from scratch and some analysts

reckon the costs may prove prohibitive.

Airbus is not a company but an economic interest grouping in which the partners, Aérospatiale of France, BAE, Daimler-Benz Aerospace and CASA of Spain separately bid for work. Talks are on to turn the loose manufacturing association into a separate quoted company, but valuing and transferring assets to Airbus would take two years. Likewise, consolidation in Europe's defence industry is a political nightmare. The French Government recently scrapped a plan to sell Thomson, the defence electronics group, to Lagardère.

CableTel likely to land BBC network

BY ERIC REGULY

THE new owner of the BBC's transmission service is to be revealed as early as today. The betting is that International CableTel, the American cable company, will emerge as the victor with an offer of more than £200 million.

CableTel owns NTL, formerly the Independent Broadcasting Authority, the only competitor to the BBC's transmission network. CableTel said that merging the networks would allow it to reduce costs, a factor that would effectively subsidise a high bid.

The Department of National Heritage is expected to approve the BBC's choice, but it is known to be sensitive to criticism that selling to CableTel would eliminate competition in the industry.

Other bidders comprised a BBC management team backed by Mercury Asset Management; a consortium led by Castle Tower, an American transmission tower builder; and a consortium led by

Securitor, the telecoms and security company. The BBC plans to use the sale to help to fund the launch of digital terrestrial television.

IN BUSINESS
TOMORROW



JANET BUSH looks at the ins and outs of monetary union after the Dublin summit

Euro 'will cost banks \$7bn a year'

BY JANET BUSH

THE global banking industry stands to lose \$7 billion in revenue a year from the European single currency, according to the Union Bank of Switzerland.

In the latest edition of its employee newsletter, UBS argues that the single currency will undercut revenues not only from foreign exchange trading but also from money and bond markets, assuming lower and more stable interest rates. Costs will also rise as banks cope with a dual currency as the euro is phased in.

In another paper for the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation, David Lascelles suggests investment in new systems and technology could wipe out six years of cost savings forecast from having the single currency. The Bank of England is today publishing another report on preparations for monetary union.

Unhappy ending, page 41

Business wants anti-investment tax bias to end

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders are to propose radical reforms to Britain's corporate tax system in an attempt to remove what they see as a clear fiscal bias against investment, which is holding back the UK's economic competitiveness.

The proposal is one of a range of yet-unpublished recommendations business leaders will make after a 21-month study of the role of business and public policy. The report of the Commission on Public Policy and British Business will be published next month.

The commission will put forward measures aimed at improving Britain's business performance, including legislation to reform the running of Britain's companies incorporating a move towards two-tier boards; acknowledgement that Europe's social chapter and a national minimum wage will be damaging to industry in the way that the Government claims and a universal right to employee consultation.

The commission, set up by the centre-left Institute for

Public Policy Research, a think-tank with close links to Tony Blair, comprises key leaders of British business, among them George Simpson of GEC, Bob Bauman, BAE chairman, and David Sainsbury. Their report, *Promoting Prosperity*, will be critical of government policy, arguing that instability in economic policymaking has been a "millstone around the neck of British business". But it will be sceptical about Labour promises to end Britain's boom-bust economic cycle.

Labour leaders are also likely to be uneasy with the commission's proposals on reforming corporate taxation. While the commission will argue that overall under-investment in the UK cannot be blamed solely on the general level of business taxation, it will suggest that the tax system encourages institutional shareholders to take dividends rather than look to capital gains from retained earnings and investment.

Looking for prosperity, page 42

Britain getting it right, says OECD

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is set to enjoy a virtuous combination of healthy growth and falling unemployment, coupled with low inflation, according to the latest economic outlook from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, to be published in full later this week.

The only cloud on Britain's economic horizon is the state of the public finances. The OECD notes that fiscal consolidation has been proceeding relatively slowly and that significant further progress will have to be made if the Government's aim of a balanced budget in the medium term is to be achieved.

The OECD seems to be taking a relatively sanguine view of prospects for monetary policy. It assumes that inflation will be below 2.5 per cent, the upper limit of the Govern-

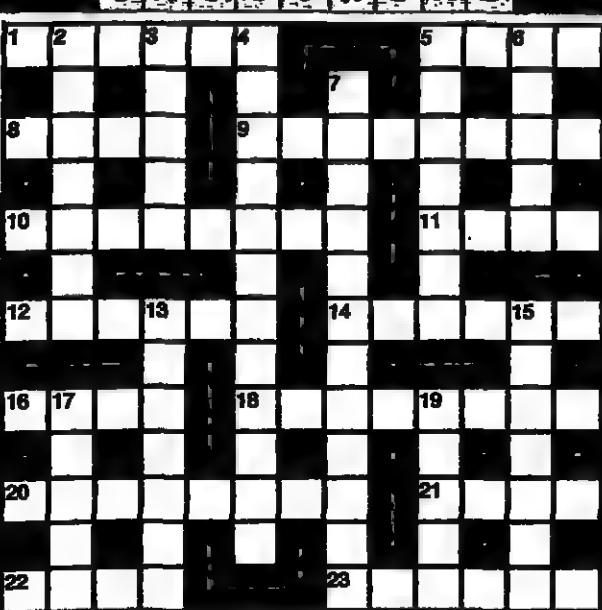
ment's target range, in each of the coming two years. This can be achieved, according to the assumptions of the OECD secretariat, with only a further small rise in base rates in the second half of 1997 to lock in low inflation levels. This, it said, would be a prudent response to above-trend growth over the next two years.

The OECD is predicting growth of 3.3 per cent in 1997 and 3.0 per cent in 1998, faster than the US, Japan, Germany, France and Italy. Of the Group of Seven countries, only Canada better this forecast performance, with growth of 3.3 per cent in both 1997 and 1998.

The OECD predicts that British unemployment could fall to below 7 per cent in 1998, still not low enough to ignite wage pressures.

Economic outlook, page 39

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 966

- ACROSS
1 Ordered group (6)
2 Beyond; over (4)
3 Store of earmarked money (5)
4 Unharmed (4,3,5)
5 Trap (one might fall into) (7)
6 Wash with abrasive (5)
7 Top doctors' address (6,6)
8 Orlando, Grinning — (7)
9 Offensively indecent (7)
10 Happen (5)
11 Cinema film (5)
12 Demote (5)
13 Migrant (5)
14 Jesse (4)
15 Hot on the trail (6)
16 Arena (7)
17 Lay off (8)
18 Dawdle (5)
19 Obtain (5)
20 Sterile (6)
21 Suppl (5)
22 Dainty (5)
23 Arrow (5)
24 Moods (5)
- DOWN
1 Demijohn (5)
2 Mail (5)
3 Magus (5)
4 Tracery (5)
5 Trade in (5)
6 Dwarf (5)
7 Toothless (5)
8 Toast (5)
9 Tempera (5)
10 Perdita (5)
11 Orion (5)
12 Dawn (5)
13 Blustery (5)
14 Askew; amiss (8)
15 Subdivision; little piece (8)
16 Old London pleasure gardens (8)
17 Asken; amiss (8)
18 Propped into position (6)
19 Cowardly (6)
20 Final resting-place (4)
21 One believing all is for the best (8)
22 Cadge (8)
23 Opinion; vista (4)
24 Part of eye; flag (4)
25 Be on the verge of topping (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 965
ACROSS: 1 Demijohn 5 Mail 9 Magus 10 Tracery 11 Trade in 12 Dwarf 13 Toothless 18 Toast 20 Tempera 22 Perdita 23 Orion 24 Dawn 25 Blustery
DOWN: 1 Demote 2 Migrant 3 Jesse 4 Hot on the trail 16 Arena 17 Lay off 8 Dawdle 14 Obtain 15 Sterile 16 Suppl 17 Dainty 19 Arrow 21 Moods

Gift ideas for Christmas. Prices include delivery to customers (rest of the world add £1 per item). Send SAE for further details. **THE TIMES CROSSWORDS** - Books £11.95 (12 puzzles) or £14.95 (16 puzzles). **THE TIMES QUIZ BOOKS** - Book 2 (200 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES TRIVIA BOOKS** - Book 1 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 1 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 2 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 3 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 4 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 5 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 6 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 7 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 8 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 9 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 10 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 11 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 12 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 13 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 14 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 15 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 16 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 17 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 18 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 19 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 20 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 21 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 22 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 23 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 24 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 25 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 26 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 27 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 28 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 29 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 30 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 31 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 32 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 33 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 34 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 35 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 36 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 37 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 38 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 39 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 40 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 41 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 42 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 43 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 44 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 45 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 46 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 47 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 48 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 49 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 50 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 51 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 52 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 53 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 54 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 55 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 56 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 57 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 58 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 59 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 60 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 61 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 62 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 63 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 64 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 65 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 66 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 67 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 68 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 69 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 70 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 71 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 72 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 73 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 74 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 75 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 76 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 77 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 78 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 79 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 80 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 81 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 82 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 83 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 84 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 85 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 86 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 87 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 88 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 89 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 90 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 91 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 92 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 93 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 94 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 95 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 96 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 97 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 98 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 99 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 100 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 101 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 102 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 103 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 104 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 105 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 106 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 107 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 108 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 109 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 110 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 111 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 112 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 113 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 114 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 115 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 116 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 117 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 118 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 119 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 120 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 121 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 122 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 123 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 124 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 125 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 126 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 127 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 128 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 129 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 130 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 131 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 132 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 133 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 134 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 135 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 136 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 137 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 138 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 139 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 140 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 141 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 142 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 143 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 144 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 145 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 146 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 147 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 148 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 149 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 150 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 151 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 152 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 153 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 154 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 155 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 156 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 157 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 158 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 159 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 160 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 161 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 162 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 163 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 164 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 165 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 166 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 167 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 168 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 169 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 170 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 171 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 172 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 173 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 174 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 175 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 176 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 177 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 178 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 179 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 180 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 181 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 182 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 183 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 184 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 185 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 186 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 187 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 188 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 189 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 190 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 191 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 192 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 193 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 194 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 195 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 196 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 197 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 198 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 199 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 200 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 201 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 202 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 203 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 204 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 205 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 206 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 207 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 208 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 209 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 210 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 211 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 212 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 213 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 214 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 215 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 216 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 217 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 218 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 219 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 220 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 221 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 222 (100 puzzles) £6.95. **THE TIMES CROSSWORD** - Book 223 (100 puzzles) £6.9

Libby Purves, Juliet Peck and Giles Coren look at past Christmases and what the festival means to them and their families

The best of times, the worst of times

Christmas 1985 changed my life. The previous year I had finally become engaged to my scoundrel boyfriend, Rory Knight Bruce, but at the beginning of the summer he was brave enough to break it off.

I was devastated. Still not recovered by December, I begged Romney Fullerton, my director at Afghanistan, to send me out to the office in Pakistan. My luck was in. I flew out on December 18 for three weeks. I remained for five years, married twice, had my first child and made some of the best friends of my life.

That first Christmas was typical of how my life had changed. Instead of presents and Christmas trees, I toured the hospitals in Peshawar looking for eight patients to send to London on an Overseas Development Agency-sponsored medical programme. I chose hopelessly, both medically and politically. But personally I was hooked.

Within weeks I knew I was to stay. I met the tempestuous, passionate Dominique Vergos, my first husband, who introduced me to a new kind of beauty. The smell of the dust after the rain, the play of the sunlight through the trees, the scent of the orange blossom in our garden. Most important of all, he taught me to value people for what they are, rather than the society they represent.

Christmas 1988 I cooked Dominique a goose, which I burnt horribly. Five days later he was shot dead by an unknown gunman in our garden. Amazingly, this was the first time that I had ever seen a dead body. We still don't know why he was killed. I wasn't convinced by the police suspect, and not wanting their scapegoat to suffer, I called my own pishon jirga (meeting of the elders) and settled the matter in the ancient tribal manner. Honour was saved on all sides.

I was left with Fyru, our son of 13 months. Determined to finish Dominique's work planning the return home of the refugees, I stayed on.

In December 1990 I was back in Britain for a wedding. By chance, Rory Peck was there for a few days from Baghdad. Rory had also lived in Peshawar and it was there that he first learnt to use a camera. Within a short time he had made a name for himself as a skilled war cameraman, whose total lack of fear enabled him to film some of the best footage of the

many wars he covered. He asked me to dinner. We spent a whirlwind three days together and he insisted we should marry. I was not convinced. I left for Pakistan, he left for Moscow. He insisted that I should join him for Christmas.

I flew out on Christmas Day. Deep snow, the brilliant gold and blue of the Kremlin domes, industrial quantities of champagne and caviar, walks in Gorky Park.

It was the beginning of a new life typical of Rory. All was extreme, everything was the best, the most difficult, the most beautiful. He followed me to Peshawar and we were married on January 8. Three days later he left for Baghdad to cover the Gulf War.

We had only two Christmases together. A rather

'Instead of gifts and trees, I visited Peshawar hospitals'

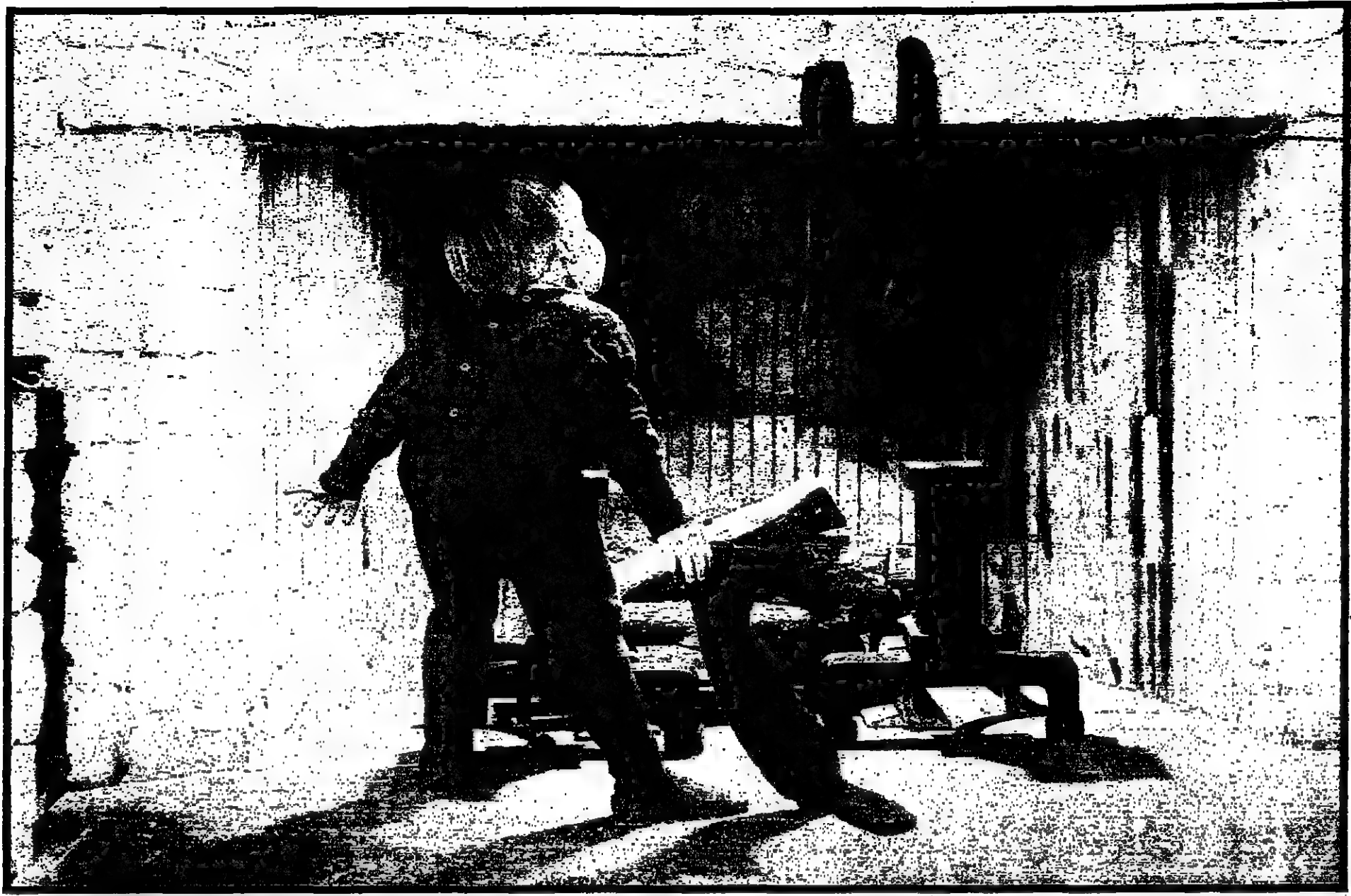
fraught one in Londonderry, when I was heavily pregnant with our daughter, and a happy family affair with all our children in Moscow. The snow was two-feet deep, falling silently around our wooden dacha. A Christmas service in our local Russian orthodox church, at Peredelkino, where we didn't understand a word, but the flicker of the candlelight on the golden icons momentarily impressed even the children. Skiing, ice-skating, riding our horses in the surrounding forest. The last brilliant happy family Christmas.

In October of that year Rory was killed outside the Moscow television station during the revolt against Yeltsin. I had been with him up to half an hour before, but needed to return home for supplies. I spent the night searching, searching, knowing in my heart that if he hadn't found me, I would never find him. That night part of me died, too.

So what of this year? Finally I am taken over by my brilliant and vivacious cousin Harriet Crawley. Like a whirlwind she flies in from Moscow, along with Glebb, her charmingly wicked Russian husband — and then on we go again. A new year but no resolutions. I can't keep them. Just my great aunt's maxim ringing in my ears. What is life? "Life is for living, you bugger." Like me she is a Crawley. She would know.

JULIET PECK

● The Rory Peck Trust, which helps the dependants of those killed on assignment, is on: 01937 835933



Christmas: the real thing

Well, yes, you count your blessings. Although at this moment the average disorganised mother feels like a rabbit, frozen in the headlights of the oncoming festivities, we know what the bottom line is. In a world of turbulence and tragedy to have an undamaged family around you at Christmas is something to be quietly, decently grateful for.

If you spread beyond two generations on Christmas Day, all the better. Better still if within the 12 days you manage to take in a good swath of extended family, with brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts and in-laws all cautiously crisscrossing the country on chilly winter roads for a meal, a walk, a party, or a night of giggling in makeshift sofa dormitories. Gatherings reinforce families.

It does not do to romanticise them, of course. Family Christmases always take on aspects of a Giles cartoon, with a lowering grandma, weeping Auntie Vera, dragged Mum, evil toils and resigned father. Our family reunions are generally known as Countings: Aunt Ada Doom and her periodic Counting of the Family. A sense of doom does come into it. Nonetheless, at the deepest level we know our luck, toast the missing ones — two grandfathers, in our case, and others of their generation — and give thanks that the rest of us are here, and on speaking terms.

For me, though, there is another cataclysm to be faced before the day. I collect cribs, nativity scenes and models from all over the world. It began as a small interest in French santons, the

figures round the Provençal manger, which come bearing gifts to represent a village's trades. The baker brings bread, the mayor makes a speech, the brigand throws down his dagger in remorse, the village idiot throws up his hands in wonder. Somehow, the collection has grown until there are close on a hundred cribs, from Poland to Peru and from minute to massive, in materials ranging from African wood to Polish cigarette-paper by way of clay, card, tin and wool. Obviously, they have to be exhibited in aid of Save the Children. It would be stupid not to.

Again, let us not be sentimental. With a consumer and family Christmas looming the last thing any girl needs is a commitment to emptying the attic and sorting through a drift of teeny shepherds, kings, oxen, mangers separated from their babies, Chilean carved figures waving watermelons, and Josephs whose heads need sticking back on with Copydex. I am not one of nature's curators, and admit that on occasion the Advent hush is broken by crashes, curses and blasphemous cries (Where's the blasted Virgin Mary from this one? Why is it never a shepherd who goes missing? The label's come adrift but I'm positive it's Kenyan sandstone). The children are rocks of support, and of research. It was Nicholas, at eight, who picked up a Bolivian clay Virgin with odd-shaped holes in her gown and blew down one of them. Yes, she is a whistler. Heaven knows why.

But fundraising apart, I suppose I do it to untangle the consumer confusions of Christmas and the aggravation of real live family

relationships, and use the riotous diversity of these cribs to meditate on the essential, irreducible human message of the season.

For here at the centre you have the basic family: mother, father, and baby, the baby representing hope for all humanity. Sometimes it is framed in a huge, baroque Polish szopka, sometimes in a self-consciously rustic stable, sometimes in a circus-bright theatre frame. Sometimes the figures stand alone, pared down to symbols of themselves. The family is the focus.

But it is not enough. Every culture, immediately tries to put it in a context. The first context is the stable and the animals. This, I suppose, represents the obvious — shelter and food.

The scene rapidly widens. The shepherds and Kings are biblical, but modellers go beyond that to surround the family with a community. Look at a Peruvian *rezabla* crib, and you see a wild party with bottles waved, hands clapped, gifts brandished, and the child Jesus waved aloft like the World Cup. In the French cribs the old, the blind, the wicked, the deranged all appear, mixed with a safe solid wall of prosperous human goodwill in the bourgeois bringers of bread and fish. Go to Chile and there are grinning wooden people pitching up with heads of maize and bowls of mush; to Poland, and the baroque powerful structures of Cracow cathedral towers around the simplicity of the little family framed in the main door.

For fun, we updated this a few years ago by commissioning a British maker of figurines to create contemporary santons in a Charing Cross arches setting: Jesus in a cardboard box, a punk Joseph and hordes of visitors of all classes with briefcases, mobile phones, judges' wigs, wheelchairs, nurses' uniforms, bag-lady rags and so on. Public figures occasionally appear: this is possibly the only Nativity to have the Thatchers, Robert Maxwell and Quentin Crisp on its fringes, gazing in suspiciously at the central family event.

As I fiddle with these things the stress of Christmas subsides. They remind me that while it is a joy to have a family, cocooning and cosseting of one's own biological kin is not enough. This baby came for everyone, and around him there must be community, and society, and the kindness of strangers. Conversely, any family withers unless it reaches out to welcome the rest of the human race. The folk custom of leaving a candle in the open window on Christmas Eve to light strangers makes sense. The festival looks out from the hearth, as well as inward.

Looking at the polyglot riot of visitors in my attic boxes, though, I can sometimes work out exactly why the Virgin Mary is hiding in the cottonwool. In denial, poor thing. But she always reappears just in time.

LIBBY PURVES

● *Cribs From the World* is at Aldeburgh Cinema Gallery, Suffolk; December 18-22, 10-3 weekdays, 10-4 weekends.

THE ISRAEL & JORDAN EXPERIENCE

the experience of a lifetime!

Is a challenging and exciting bike ride around Israel or Jordan for you?

If so read on:

Join us in 1997: 5-13 April or 12-20 April in Israel or 4-12 October in Jordan. Cycle 225 miles (4/5 cycling days) over a 9-day fundraising adventure.

Imagine cycling through deserts, craters and nature parks, past mountains and crusader castles, beside rivers, springs and seas. Depending on the itinerary chosen, you can cross the Sea of Galilee, float in the Dead Sea, cross the Negev Desert and visit Jerusalem, Petra, Eilat or Aqaba.

If you are reasonably fit, over 18, willing and able to raise sponsor money for the British Heart Foundation, then we want you.

Call today as places are limited.
FreeCall 0500 200 575

British Heart Foundation
The heart research charity
Incorporated charity no 285274

Tinsel, turkey but no tiny tots

BOB CRATCHIT can shut up as far as I am concerned. I'm with Ebenezer. So he had a dodgy job, a demanding boss, and hadn't done the shopping. It's hardly worth a novel, now, is it?

Look at it from a distance. He had a typical Victorian home: poor and simple, but honest and full of period detail. He had a big family.

He had carol singers. He even had snow. What's a little poverty when you've got Empire, cobble streets and gas lamps?

He should try a typical late 1990s, post-Christian, twenty-something, young urban professional, yule-tide dilemma. As far as I can tell, Christmas this year will be an attempt at pretending the previous 364 days were all a dream.

My bed will be made again in the old bedroom with the Marilyn Monroe clock on the wall and the 400 back issues of *Roy of the Rovers* piled on the windowsill. My girlfriend will disappear to her former bedroom in South London for Santa's benefit. My sister will curl up in her little pink bedroom, while her neighbours keep an eye on the flat, and my parents will stay up later than us, eyelids held wide by matchsticks and Douwe Egberts medium roast, so they can fill the stockings we made from pillowcases in 1976.

No one has existential angst. No one is suffering major relationship trauma. No one has a man in a cheap

suit questioning their VAT returns. Back at my flat, a Christmas tree twinkles in the sitting room with no one to look at it. My sister's flat, which has glittered for most of December with red and green sparkly things, is dark. And the tree in the 'ole homestead, which was put up in memory of those who have flown the nest, gets its 12 hours of attention, before becoming, once again, just an irritant to Hoover bags and people trying to get to the kitchen.

Three trees, one small family. Christmas is in limbo this year

Three trees, one small family. Christmas is in limbo, and it is all my fault. It is the responsibility of children to have babies before their grandparents are all dead. I have failed. So has my sister. And so we sit around, the four of us, two in their fifties, two in their twenties, with paper hats on, wondering just who is kidding who.

My stocking last year had a bottle of whisky, a carton of Camel and some lamb-skin condoms. This is crisis point. My parents want to buy Lego sets and Beano annuals. I do a few hours with them, a few with my common-law in-laws, and then I'm back in the flat. Just me and my girlfriend wondering when we can take the tree down. Everyone is fed up with their roles, and waiting to shift up a generation. We are the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future all rolled into one.

GILES COREN

HOT £25-30

Now you can take the break you've been looking for at a price that won't get you all steamed up!

From now until 28th February, we've dramatically cut the cost of a break at our excellent Hotels and Resorts. And that means great value has never been so affordable.

HOT £40

Stay for two, three or more nights at one of our friendly, intimate Hotels from only £25 per person, per night. Or at one of our luxurious Country Club Resorts from just £40 per person, per night.

Country Club Resort guests receive complimentary Leisure Club membership during their stay and the chance to play golf on one of two championship courses.

To take advantage of these very special prices, you must book by 14th February as room availability for this offer is strictly limited. So don't miss out. Call the host of your choice or our special HOTLINE now.

HOT
BOOK BY 14TH FEBRUARY
STAY BY 28TH FEBRUARY
01582 56 22 56

COUNTRY CLUB Hotel Group

FOR A FREE COPY OF OUR LEISURE BREAKS BROCHURE, PLEASE CALL 0800 444 885

Prices quoted are per person, per night for Dinner, Bed and Breakfast. These breaks are subject to weekly limited availability and apply only to twin or double room occupancy on a minimum 2 night stay. Single rooms are only available in conjunction with a twin/double room and supplements may apply. No other offer or special circumstances can be used in conjunction with this promotion. For details of special offers speak direct to hosts. Offer available from 27th December 1996 to 28th February 1997, excluding 21st December and 14th February.

425 Worcestershire, Wensleydale Hotel	(0121) 445 1202
430 Bedfordshire, Barns Hotel	(01234) 270044
430 New Forest/Wiltshire, Potters Heron Hotel	(01793) 266611
430 Sherwood Forest, Chamber Peck Hotel	(01625) 895555
430 South Cheshire, Chatterbox Hotel	(0270) 764041
430 Warwick, Bonley Court Hotel	(01926) 484254
430 Yorkshire Pennines, Old Golf House Hotel	(01422) 575531
ALL PRICES INCLUDE A FULL TRADITIONAL BREAKFAST AND 3 COURSE DINNER.	
540 Bristol, Redwood Lodge Hotel	(01275) 593901
540 Canterbury, Palsall Hotel	(01227) 462138
540 Cotswolds, Twickenham Park Hotel	(01684) 295405
540 London, Edgwarebury Hotel	(0181) 955 8227
540 Peak District (Nr Sheffield), Beauchief Hotel	(0145) 262 0500
540 The Potteries (Stone), Stone House Hotel	(01785) 815551
540 Winchester/Portsmouth, Moon Valley Hotel	(01329) 833455
<small>* Country Club Resorts: 1 Golf is available at these resorts for an extra charge.</small>	
540 Tewkesbury Park Hotel	Half bottle of house wine per person on first night of stay
540 Old Golf House Hotel	Free child entry to the Barns Museum

ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



■ OPERA

Judith Weir's *The Consolations of Scholarship* comes to the Queen Elizabeth Hall
PERFORMANCE: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ DANCE

From Russia with tutu: the Kirov Ballet brings *The Nutcracker* to the Coliseum
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ MUSICAL

Richard Eyre revives his superb National Theatre production of *Gays and Dolls*
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ POP

The evergreen empress of soul, Tina Turner, struts back to Wembley Arena
GIGS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

In the Midlands last week I met someone who teaches those children who have been expelled from all other schools. Without mentioning the issue of television and violence which Virginia Bottomley has brought to the surface once again, I asked him about the causes of violence among the young people he dealt with — a violence he had already described as often highly dangerous. Without any hesitation, he listed the causes as follows: all the children had been beaten, sometimes savagely, by parents or relatives or foster parents, many had been raped, many had been forced into juvenile prostitution, all had been horribly abused and utterly violated.

And the influence of television programmes on all this? Or on Fred West? Or on the man at Dunblane? On any serious list of the causes of violence, television scarcely merits a mention. It seems to those to whom violence is done violence in return. That minority of violent young people watch

Don't make TV the scapegoat for violence

precisely the same television programmes as the overwhelming majority of their peers who, in my experience, are widely well disposed and impressively tolerant. There are audiences for vile and violent videos, but these can scarcely be laid at the door of the major broadcasters which gather up most of the audiences most of the time.

It is true that there is a greater apprehension about crime, and that is often blamed on television, although surely television is no more than the messenger. News — not only on television — is more insistently with us than ever before and some of it is indeed violent. Is the solution to stop reporting on wars, riots, bombings and multiple injustices? Even if it were possible, what would be the point of the ostrich manoeuvre? My guess is that people's desire to be

informed far outweighs their dismay at looking at the worst. So the reporting of violence — even if it could be proved to have an effect on that minority of violent people — is unlikely to be changed much. Already, like all other programmes on the main channels in our country, it is heavily patrolled, but we cannot sanitise the world.

As for violence in television drama, compared with some movies and videos it is innocent on practically all counts. Of course in taste and judgment are made, but our watchdogs pounce on them quickly and these incidents are very few.

There are those who argue that a major worry is an elevation of yobishness — of men behaving badly, and women showing they can be every bit as bad — but that, I believe, is redeemed by wit and



by the transparent decency of those involved. But even if it were not, it would be a brave analyst who declared that the screen led rather than reflected this current yobish fashion in youth and

hanging-on-to-youth culture.

It is understandable to criticise television since politicians assume it to be so very powerful — something I dispute. But faced with the intractability of a violence which erodes the nerve of a society's confidence about its own security, it is natural enough to lash out. Nobody has a solution; moreover, it is important to keep this in perspective. Compared with most countries we are still relatively peaceful and law-abiding and good-humoured.

The problem about treating television as a scapegoat is that it might be seen as offering a real solution. Politicians are as frustrated as the rest of us and as fed up with the disfigurements of violence, however relatively or comparatively optimistic we are about our society. But to bring about a few small alterations in a

television system which is already responsible and well regulated will do nothing whatsoever to address, let alone solve, the difficulties posed for that dedicated schoolteacher going about our business in the Midlands.

I am one of those who is fed up with the Church of England's desire to ease out of its responsibility to the King James version. I know many Catholics who are equally fed up with the slide away from Latin.

If ever I needed to be even more convinced of the strength of my position — which can too easily be made to seem merely blimpish — then that proof came at a Jewish funeral on Thursday.

It was for a young woman in her twenties, Michelle Fox, who had worked with me and made several films on dance — her special

passion — which are as promising and talented as it is possible to be. Michelle was also inspiringly gallant and graceful in her two-year fight against cancer.

At the service the rabbi led the prayers and now and then she alone spoke a prayer in its original Hebrew. It is a language of which I have no knowledge but the sense of its history, of centuries of grief and comfort, of lives lived under this tongue so potent that it held a whole people together, was unmistakable.

I envied it. Our Anglican traditional language is less than 400 years old. Latin, I presume, began to be used extensively in the Catholic church only after the Emperor Constantine. But even so there is a moving and healing sense of a deeper community of lasting values in hearing words that have been heard by so many like us so often before.

Certainly, as the rabbi's clear speaking of the prayers filled the crowded space I felt that Michelle was in fine and ancient company.

'Dysfunctional, but it still works'

The turmoil at the venerable Royal Academy is over; now there is a renewed sense of purpose. Or so its managers tell Simon Tait

One week this summer it seemed as if David Gordon, the chief executive of ITN, was either going to be Rector of the Royal College of Art or the new boss of Sterling Publications. The next he was snuffed as the new secretary and troubleshooter at the Royal Academy.

And trouble there soon was. It became public with the leaking, ten days ago, of his memo to the RA's council detailing for the first time the true financial position. "It's actually a piddling little deficit for an organisation that has to earn 100 per cent of its income and has a £15 million annual turnover," he now says of the rumpus. "The Arts Council will know what a shining light of an example the RA is. What we're going through at the moment is a long-delayed and rather painful process of getting a balance."

The Arts Council comes into the picture because next year the Arts Lottery Fund will be asked for a grant to examine the feasibility of an expansion by the RA into the soon-to-be vacated Museum of Mankind

next door. "We wouldn't put in a bid unless we were absolutely confident that our finances were in a fundamentally sturdy state," Gordon says.

With 4,000 people a day passing through the doors for lunch, shopping or even to see one of three exhibitions on offer at the moment, the RA is certainly popular. But that has not stopped its critics from questioning whether its antiquated rules need revision if the RA is to prosper in the next century. Much criticism, too, is directed at the Royal Academicians, the artists who govern the institution.

They are, in the painter John Hoyland's words, a dysfunctional family. There was fierce opposition, for instance, to the Lord Leighton exhibition earlier this year, because some Academicians thought that the RA's president of a century ago wasn't a very good painter.

Some Academicians don't

like the expansion plans. Some hate the merchandising. There is always dissatisfaction about the Summer Exhibition, and this year saw a row when one Academician's wooden sculpture collapsed as it was being shifted to make way for the fund-raising Summer Ball.

"Of course there are tensions among the Academicians," says Michael Kenny, sculptor and treasurer. "It's what guarantees the place's integrity."

Yet at the annual general assembly, held last Thursday in the wake of the revelations, the president, Sir Philip Dowson, was re-elected overwhelmingly. "The mood was vigorous, not angry," one RA said. "The new secretary took the unusual step of producing an interim report which made the situation clear, ready for the audited report in January, when we'll meet again."

There was concern at the proliferation of staff — 196 when there used to be a couple of dozen. There may well be staff cuts, but no selling of assets such as the Michelangelo Madonna. And Gordon expects that the audit by the accountants Ernst and Young will actually show up an accumulated deficit of no more than £2 million.

Dowson's view is that the RA has been a victim of its own success. A pioneer of arts sponsorship, it enjoyed relative prosperity in the 1980s and had relaxed into complacency

after the huge success of the 1991 Monet show, which made £1.7 million profit, three times the estimate. Then the Tate and National Galleries began putting on the exhibitions the RA might have expected to mount, the recession struck and sponsorship dwindled.

Tension also grew between the administration and the membership. The council of 15 members holds ultimate control, but claimed that the administration had been selective in how it reported to them. Now Gordon has appointed the RA's first ever finance director, Ian Blachford, one of the Arts Council. John Nickson has also been brought in from English National Opera, to be director of development. And Gordon wants to establish a watchdog body of Academicians and businessman members of the RA Trust, to ensure full accountability.

"That's what makes this business of the leak so irritating," Kenny says. "You open the window and someone chuck a brick through it, causing untold damage. The solution is under way, and there's no secrecy now."

"What we have to go on doing is putting on important exhibitions like African Art and Poussin," Dowson believes. "They didn't get enough sponsorship and lost us money, but they have to be seen." Gordon adds: "In the words of our instrument of foundation, we're here to interpret and promote the arts and design, and that will never change. We just have to do it better."



"We're here to interpret and promote the arts and design, and that will never change. We just have to do it better."

CONCERTS: An elevated premiere in Liverpool; a fine recital in London

Seven ways to reach the top

THE difference between lift music and *Lift Music* is that in the former case you can always use the stairs. Once into Ian Gardiner's new piece in the Philharmonia Hall there was no escape until, after four ascents and three descents, we were left on a level higher than the one where we started, somewhat disorientated and wondering how to get down.

Still, elevation is the purpose of all serious art and Gardiner's *Lift Music* has not failed if it achieves it by means of ingenious construction and brilliant orchestral engineering rather than by a surge of imagination. It is entertaining, interestingly coloured and, since it has the courage to proceed slowly on the subterranean levels as well as the urge to coruscate on the surface, effectively paced.

WHEN colleagues are in tears by the end of the evening, you know that a *Lied* recital has succeeded. Within the past two or three years, the American soprano Barbara Bonney has grown from being a seductive and vivacious princess of the recital platform to a true *Königin in Lied*, as Strauss's song *Nichts* has it: a queen of song.

What makes Bonney's performances uniquely engaging is her fusion of emotional involvement with technical control. One works on the other; the result is a performance as enraptured and revealing as her Strauss

RLPO/McGrath
Liverpool

Sovereign skills

Strändchen.
And that was only an encore.

Her first group of early Mozart songs suggested that this would be one of those rare evenings when the listener would never experience a moment of apprehension as to the truth of a musical idiom. With Bonney, each song is inhabited entirely. Whether in winsome storytelling or in melancholic reflection, the mind has already

imagined the precise quality of a tone, the minutest inflection of a word or phrase; and the voice then realises it perfectly, without any coyness or distortion.

This draws the listener in unusually close. Our imaginations are kindled with Bonney's own, whether in the distant sight of a high star, or in the flare of a flame which burns both a love-letter and the heart of its recipient.

and *Das Lied von der Erde* in the same programme is not without faith in his own abilities. The justification was a Mahler interpretation which put clarity before expressive ambition and which, in spite of one or two instrumental hesitations, was rewarding for its demonstration of textured detail.

While neither of the two solo performances was stylish enough to offer fully idiomatic phrasing of the vocal line, balance between the orchestra and a heroic Jeffrey Lawton was uncommonly well sustained in the opening movement, and the final attenuation of colour was beautifully achieved by Catherine Wyn-Rogers.

GERALD LARNER

Malcolm Martineau, accompanying, had a formidable task. Yet he gave as good as he got, turning a kaleidoscope of colour the equal of Bonney's radiant voice. The shifting lights of his playing within Strauss's *Wiegendorf* typified his way with the three cradle-songs she chose. Then on to eight of Strauss's greatest songs, setting the poetry of Hermann von Gilm.

Bonney's encores paid tribute to the six young singers with whom she had presented an equally memorable Insight Class earlier in the week.

HILARY FINCH

Last night on the street — today both safe at St Mungo's

It probably says a lot about St Mungo's that when we take people off the street, we find room for their best friend too. Being in St Mungo's means a clean, warm bed in a safe haven. It means decent treatment and friendly, acceptable help. There never has been any taint of chilly, Victorian charity about St Mungo's. It's probably one of the reasons why the Association has been so successful over the years. But that very success has brought its own problems. Demands on us grow year by year. People who were in long stay mental institutions are now semi-permanent guests in St Mungo's hostels. We make it our policy not to turn anyone away from our direct access hostels if it can be avoided. And once we accept people we do all we can to rehabilitate, retrain and resettle them. So we have set ourselves very high standards indeed. Will you help us maintain those standards? We would be so grateful and so would the homeless of London, not to mention their dogs. Please would you send whatever you can afford, with the coupon below, to: St Mungo Association, Room A3, Atlantic House, 1-3 Rockley Road, London W14 0DJ.

(Charity exempt from registration, friendly society number 205 98R)



StMungo's

I should like to support St Mungo's work with the homeless of London and I enclose a cheque/£... or please debit my Visa/Access card no.

Exp. date: Signed:

Name (please print):

Address:

If you can't help us at the moment, do fill in and send the coupon and we will keep you informed of our work.

Make a
song and
dance
with your
Christmas
present

Give Theatre Tokens. They can be used at over 160 theatres nationwide, including all of London's West End.

Simply buy Theatre Tokens from most branches of WH Smith, James Thin Bookellers, through Ticketmaster 0171 344 4444. Tickets London 0171 416 6012 or

Call our 24 hour Tokentline 0171 240 8800



Matthew Parris



I could compile an impressive list of things it is perfectly possible not to have done, and still be human

I mentioned casually to a friend recently that I had never bought a National Lottery ticket. I have no moral objection either to gambling or to Camelot enriching itself, but my conscience is troubled by the thought of all that money being siphoned off to charity.

Mrs Bottomley has no business plundering the lottery's treasure trove and giving the booty to theatres in Surrey. If you live in the Home Counties and want to go to the theatre you should pay for it.

Not that I would ban the lottery. On the contrary, it affords pleasure to literally everyone. The 99 per cent of the population who buy tickets have the pleasure of kidding themselves they are going to be millionaires; we 1 per cent who do not buy tickets have the pleasure of knowing we are already a couple of hundred pounds better off.

Yet when I mentioned my eccentricity to a friend, his reaction was little short of scandalised. "You've never bought a lottery ticket?"

"Never."

"Not once? You don't even know how to?"

"No idea. I think newsgangsters sell them, don't they?"

He looked at me as one might a time-traveller from the 4th century, his likely next question being whether I knew how to use a knife and fork. He still looks at me now, as if something weird and unbridgeable sets me apart from other men.

And it struck me that this was yet another example on an impressive list we could compile of things it is perfectly possible not to have done, and still be human. The world looks on, amazed, but the secret or self-confessed abstainer knows it is only a very small thing that separates him from others.

Believe it or not, some people have never listened to *The Archers*. Here, too, I plead guilty. To say this may offend many readers of *The Times*, but I do think you'd have to have a rather sad life to wish to employ your spare time keeping up with *Archers*. I did catch a few minutes of it by accident the other day, and a worse-acted radio drama I have yet to hear. It was dire. Millions of you, I know, are addicted. Please be assured that we who do not share your habit find it remarkably easy to function as normal citizens in every other respect.

Nor have I ever done a crossword. I simply don't see why one would. Are our days on this Earth not short? Is the night sky not filled with stars? Are there not symphonies to write, dragons to fight, oceans to fathom, mountain ranges to cross...?

I have a friend who has never watched *EastEnders*.

Unlike *The Archers*, *EastEnders* is well-produced and well-acted, but you can take or leave all that shouting and my friend leaves it. She remains capable of carrying on with her job and sustaining a satisfactory level of social interaction with her peers — she simply cannot discuss *EastEnders*, that's all.

Though forced to play at school, I have never watched a cricket match or listened to a cricket commentary, or at least an anti-Maastricht. Fortunately, *The Times* has many German readers who speak excellent English and read it without difficulty. It is to them that this column is particularly addressed.

Sir Siegmund Warburg was the one great banker that London has seen since the war; he was trained in the classic German banking tradition of hard work, integrity, discretion and foresight. He brought to London the virtues of his German training, including an unremitting attention to detail. If he had been alive to study the single currency problem in its

German language, because I would like Germans to know that there are many British people who recognise and value the German contribution to European development since 1945 and admire and like modern Germany. That is true even of many of those who, like myself, are thought of as Eurosceptics, or at least as anti-Maastricht. Fortunately, *The Times* has many German readers who speak excellent English and read it without difficulty. It is to them that this column is particularly addressed.

And consider sex. If one were to believe a quarter of the rubbish one reads, one would suppose it was barely possible to be human without engaging in vigorous, regular sexual activity with at least one other person and preferably dozens. Of course most people hardly do and many never do.

Others don't drink — honestly: not at all. Some do not eat meat. Half of Britain has never taken drugs. Many of my friends don't read newspapers. Some never go abroad, many do not fly, a couple have never been to London and one has never seen the sea. There even are people who have never been questioned by MORI or Gallup.

Everything these days, even politics, seems to revolve around marketing to "niches." Apparently we all fall into them. There is the Radio 4 *Archers* niche, the prime-time TV soap niche, the sexually active under-50s niche, the holiday-in-Benidorm niche, the villa in Tuscany niche. But the biggest niche of all is the niche of people secretly worried by the fact that they haven't done or don't do something at all. Friends, you are my niche.

I write this because future historians may try to reconstruct what life was like on Earth in 1996, and do it by reading old newspapers and watching television archives. So here is a message to you, historian of the 22nd century: "Do not overlook us. We abstain; we survive. And we're quite all right."

The Dublin summit has left Europe in a mess and the British have no policy and no influence

Germany's postwar history has been admirable — far better than that of Britain or France. The greatest achievement is the development of a stable and mature democracy, combined with a strong economy. The economic recovery started with the introduction of the deutschmark in 1948: in the first six months industrial production doubled.

Ludwig Erhard's social market economy gave Germany a freedom France had never enjoyed, and Britain did not enjoy until the 1980s. The strong Chancellors, Adenauer, Schmidt, Kohl, have given Germany coherent political leadership. Germany is the economic anchor of the European Union. Reunification brought together the two parts of a single nation. No nation did more to wreck Europe in the first half of the 20th century, and none has done as much to heal and strengthen Europe in the second half.

I wish that I could write in the German language, because I would like Germans to know that there are many British people who recognise and value the German contribution to European development since 1945 and admire and like modern Germany. That is true even of many of those who, like myself, are thought of as Eurosceptics, or at least as anti-Maastricht. Fortunately, *The Times* has many German readers who speak excellent English and read it without difficulty. It is to them that this column is particularly addressed.

Sir Siegmund Warburg was the one great banker that London has seen since the war; he was trained in the classic German banking tradition of hard work, integrity, discretion and foresight. He brought to London the virtues of his German training, including an unremitting attention to detail. If he had been alive to study the single currency problem in its

Why we're all losers in the battle of the euro

present form, he would have been at least as concerned about the detail of the arrangements as about the theoretical strategic implications; he would have known that the details would decide the strategic outcome. The issues which were decided at Dublin last week included some essential details. Germany has wanted to create a non-political euro which would be as good as the deutschmark: it was German policy to re-create the deutschmark on a European scale, in the hope that would give the European Union the advantages of a strong and stable currency that Germany has enjoyed since 1948.

Germans know from experience that a strong currency is a better basis for economic development than a weak one. They have seen how the opposite policy worked for Britain. The French objectives were very different. The French have been successful in capturing the European Commission; Brussels is not just a French agency, but it is to some degree a French agency.

Bernard Cornolly was sacked for pointing out that the French objective in supporting a single currency was to share the authority of the deutschmark. But French currency policy is very different from that of the Bundesbank.

The Bundesbank has made currency stability its overriding objective, as it is legally bound to do; that has created the strong deutschmark, one of the world's hardest currencies alongside the yen and the Swiss

franc. France sees exchange-rate policy as a political and commercial weapon. That was what President Chirac meant when he blurted out on television that he saw the single currency "as a means to fight against the US dollar". He did not mean that he wanted the euro to be stronger than the dollar; he wanted the dollar to go up in price, so that US exports will be less competitive. France is in favour of a competitive euro, which means a weak one.

The French Government also

William Rees-Mogg

wants a politically-influenced euro, a currency which leaves room for governments to run deficits, and eases the social pressures which are now felt so strongly in France. M. Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, told the *Financial Times*: "We don't want all decisions on economic, budgetary, fiscal and monetary policy to be shaped by a technocratically-driven, semi-automatic system under the sole authority of the European Central Bank. That is not our concept of democracy."

France has now won two decisive victories. The Maastricht treaty itself made exchange-rate policy for the euro a matter for the Council of

Ministers, acting through qualified majority voting. The Dublin summit agreed that fines arising from the stability pact will have to be determined by the Council of Finance Ministers, again acting by qualified majority voting. This is not an independent euro; the exchange-rate and fiscal policies will both be politically determined through the usual European process of bargaining for majorities in the Council of Ministers.

It is now more likely that Italy and Spain will be allowed to join the single currency from the beginning. The euro will not be a Germanic and independent currency, but a Latin and politicised one, not so much a substitute for the deutschmark as a substitute for the franc. It will not be a hard currency, but at best semi-soft. The deutschmark is the symbol of Germany's postwar achievement. To exchange it for a euro-mark would be a sacrifice; but an endurable one. To exchange it for a euro-franc is bitter indeed.

Germany is like Esau, who surrendered his birthright for a mess of pottage. But if France has sandbagged Germany, Britain has played an almost contemptible role. We joined the exchange rate mechanism in 1990 at the wrong time — it coincided with the economic shocks of the recession and German reunification — and at the wrong price.

We agreed the Maastricht treaty in 1991 with an opt out, but also with heavy reservations. We never had a referendum on Maastricht because

after 1992 it would certainly have been lost. In 1992 we left the ERM, partly because Germany would not support us, but partly because it was unsustainable.

British public opinion has now swung decisively against a single currency, to the point at which British membership of the European Union is threatened. It matters little that British fears of the euro are based more on the rigours of joining a hard currency than on fears of the inflationary character of a soft one. Sterling has long been a soft currency, so the French style politicised euro would feel rather like what we are used to already. The euro is now so unpopular in Britain that these distinctions are not being made. Germany needs Britain.

Sadly, the big failure of German as well as of British policy has been to allow the early 1970s triangle of German-Franco-British understanding to become a bilateral Franco-German alliance. That occurred after the death of President Pompidou in 1974 and the defeat of Ted Heath in the same year.

The bilateral Franco-German relationship contains stresses which need the trilateral relationship with Britain to release them. Culturally Britain is a Nordic, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant country; the English are the lost German tribes. Excluded Britain, and Europe becomes predominantly a Catholic, Latin, Mediterranean culture, wearing a sort of Nordic top hat. Even the Poles are Catholics.

The Dublin summit has left Europe in a mess. The British have no policy and no influence; Germany has lost the battle for a euro which will be as good as the deutschmark; even France has over-reached herself, and has killed the deutschmark without creating a currency.

A royal crusade for change

The Prince of Wales's vision for building a better designed Britain has broken new ground in architectural thinking, says Richard Hodges

The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture was founded with a simple aim: to bring architectural thinkers and practitioners together both to address a range of concerns about the built environment as well as to explore alternative ideas for contemporary architecture.

It was also founded to fill a void that had arisen in teaching: while over the past two decades there has been self-evidently been staggering technological and economic change across the globe — which has had a profound impact on our cities, on architecture and on the environment — orthodox architectural education in Britain has signally failed to respond to these changes.

Instead of becoming more flexible and practical to cope with the speed and nature of change, it has instead retreated into the theoretical groves of academe which are ever more remote from people's everyday concerns — where it has inevitably been caught between the rock of professional exclusivity and the hard place of deep university funding cuts.

In contrast, the institute has pioneered entirely new ways of teaching which extend far beyond pure architectural theory, important though that is, to embrace wider planning issues, the fine arts and building crafts. These apparently novel — but in practice broad-based and traditional — teaching methods have included summer schools, urban design taskforces, a foundation course and post graduate and research degrees in both architecture and a range of crucial related skills.

They have taken place not just in Britain but also in Europe, east and west, and America. They have attracted students from all five continents, brought together by a shared disillusionment with the blinkered

narrowness of modernist education.

The striking vision that the Prince of Wales gave his institute broke new ground in architectural thinking. Far from being just a seat of learning, he intended it also to be a force which crusaded for change — drawing the zeal for that crusade from the concerns of ordinary people about the degeneration in their built environment. He wanted it to enhance public understanding and appreciation of the value of traditional approaches to architecture and urban design.

From the beginning he was concerned that it should link the practical activities of the builder to the aesthetic concerns of the architectural theoretician — drawing on the tremendous surge of interest from ordinary people in the possibility of finding more in their surroundings than the unthinking arrogance and secular materialism offered by the architects and planners in recent decades.

In short, he set up the institute to begin restoring to our towns and cities that sense of place which had been erased by the blitzkrieg of postwar development. The Prince's vision did not call for a simplistic application of any particular style, but a focused approach to developing a more sustainable system of creating the environment in which people have to live.

By those high standards set for it in 1992, the institute has seen remarkable success. In the four years since its launch, the institute has concentrated on developing a core educational programme combining traditional and innovative components. This in turn has had an important impact on traditional tertiary education, forcing a number of British institutions to develop new, interdisciplinary and modular courses. But these are huge issues, and in



Prince Charles: he has listened to the concerns of ordinary people

four years we have been able only to make a start in changing attitudes and implementing the vision of the Prince — which is even more relevant now than it was when the first summer school was held.

This is also clear from the recent publication by the Architects' Council of Europe of a manifesto, *A Vision of Europe and Architecture Tomorrow*. The central theme of this document, which draws on the Prince's book *A*

Vision of Britain, is stark in its clarity: "Much of tomorrow's built environment can and must be transformed to become an environment for all citizens. But that environment must be a built environment born out of a coherence of intention, where timeless themes of sustainability, durability and delight are restored for today's building user and for contemporary society." This message demonstrates that the concerns motivating the foundation of the institute are now widely shared.

However, while it is now received wisdom that our built environment faces huge challenges, the next step forward is less apparent. As a result, there is an opportunity for the institute to build upon the first four years of its work and achievement, to concentrate on finding innovative solutions to the problems of the late 20th century and to work ever more closely with the community at large. The institute should be a vehicle for planners, surveyors, managers, financiers, engineers and architects, who are all in need of fresh bearings in a world that is becoming steadily more conscious of community values and the logic of sustainability.

The institute, of which there are already nearly 200 alumni, has a chance to enter a new stage of development, securing a role as an important engine of change. We must seek to tackle as practically as possible the horrendous architectural problems that beset many of our inner cities.

For too long these problems have been the Cinderella issue of all those involved in British architecture — talked about in hushed tones in municipal circles by planners and builders, but never receiving the practical and sensitive action they deserve. The institute intends to fill that void, and to make real progress in the crucial task of regenerating inner cities.

The author was appointed as the Director of the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture last week. He is Professor of Archaeology at the University of East Anglia, and a former Director of the British School at Rome. © Peter Riddell is away and his column will resume after Christmas.

Melt down

THERE IS concern that President Mandela is not getting the nutritional requirements needed for a man of his age. At a banquet in a KwaZulu/Natal town last week, he whispered to the organisers that he would like to take some of the food home in a doggy bag.

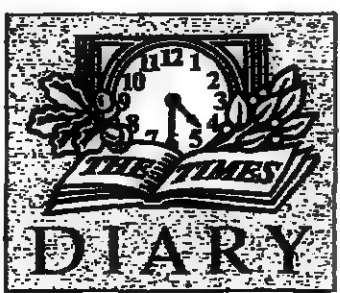
After arriving an hour late for the lunch at a smart hotel, Mr Mandela seemed appalled at the

prospect of having to miss dessert if he was to keep his next appointment of unveiling a plaque in Howick. Determined to take it with him, he put the request to the hotel owner.

Unfortunately it was not the most transportable choice. A dripping selection of fruits with kiwi, mango and raspberry sorbets in a wafer basket was assembled and the President dispatched a security officer to collect the package. "It's so nice to find such fine hospitality at a country establishment," he said, with enormous satisfaction.

Well noted

MONEY changed hands in the chamber of the House of Commons last week but to everyone's surprise not a murmur was raised. During a particularly boring debate Andrew MacKinnay turned round to his Tory colleague Andrew Robathan and handed him two £5 notes. The Speaker overlooked the incident supposing that MacKinnay was giving Robathan the money to buy a present for his recently born child. In fact the money was the re-



sult of a bet between the two MPs. MacKinnay had said there would be a general election before Christmas, Robathan had bet against it.

● Neighbours of the ubiquitous radio and television presenter, Chris Evans, report that he has taken to cooking in the nude. He has been regularly spotted in nothing but an apron, if that, behind a simmering saucepan of bolognese sauce.

Painted lady

INSPIRATION is on hand for Kenneth Clarke as he struggles to make the national sums add up. At a reception last week at 11 Downing Street, Gillian Clarke, master-quilter and the Chancellor's wife, pointed admiringly to a portrait of

Ada Byron, sole legitimate offspring of arch-philanderer Lord Byron.

In contrast to her artistic father, Ada was a brilliant mathematician who assisted Charles Babbage in his pioneering work on computers. Her portrait now hangs in the Clarke's main drawing room: "I like her very much," says a homely Mrs Clarke, "notwithstanding the mathematical connection. I think it's her strong jawline and strident pose that appeal."

Everything is not quite as it seems, however. In later life, I discover, Ada lapsed into gambling and opium abuse.

Sarnie barney

RIGHT-WING Tory MP for the Isle of Wight, Barry Field, is no slouch on his feet when it comes to apprehending a law breaker. He was being driven by his wife in their Land Rover in Cowes when a youth on the pavement hurled a large sandwich against the windscreen on his feet when it comes to apprehending a law breaker.

Field's slatted wife slammed on the brakes. Without hesitation he leapt out and pursued the vandal who was fleeing down the street on the handle-bars of another youth's bike. "I legged it after them," Field says. "The offender was not too



Ada Byron: pretty bright

happy when I caught up with him and took him to the police station. No charges were preferred.

● Dying diners at *Champney's* health resort may be tempted to snack on the tiny but nutritious limbs of the edible dormouse (Latin: *Glis glis*). An environmental audit of fauna and flora taken recently of the 100-acre estate has revealed it is the habitat of these little creatures. They are a protected species, however, even though the chief executive, Lord Thurno, sounds positively bloodthirsty about them: "They are low in fat

and a refreshing alternative to turkey," he says, salivating.

Bussed up

THE SULTAN of Brunei, a firm fan of Kevin Keegan and the Magpies since they visited Brunei last year to play in a guest tournament and to give local players a spot of coaching, is giving Newcastle United a £750,000 double-decker luxury coach. The black and white-striped vehicle will include individual television sets for every seat and an area for the club physiotherapist to treat injured players on the road.

Star players have, before now, received jewel-encrusted watches as a token of appreciation, but this latest gift has truly impressed the team. "An ordinary executive coach with a television and video would only cost about £160,000," says a spokesman from a coach rental company.

Stepping out

HUGH GRANT and Liz Hurley have arrived in Rome for the European premiere of the already-ridiculed film *Samson and Delilah*, tonight. They are staying at the Hassler Hotel, near the romantic



Liz Hurley: seen through

Spanish Steps, but they have booked into separate rooms. Hurley has resorted to her usual method of attracting attention. On Saturday night she attended a private view of the film in a full-length but see-through black backless dress by the designer Ungaro. The frock was so diaphanous that, "you could see her bottom right through it," according to one pop-eyed observer. Eventually even Liz Hurley tired of the attention and Grant lent her her jacket to cover up.

P.H.S



THE PIG'S HEART

Better evidence of low risk needed

Modern doctors must be as familiar with ethical guidelines as they are with *Gray's Anatomy*. As new skills and better techniques are developed, it becomes ever harder to shrug the shoulders and declare a case hopeless. Yesterday's bold experiments are tomorrow's clinical routine. But the success of new treatments, including those born in a storm of controversy such as organ transplants, has created a situation in which doctors are forced to play God, choosing where to bestow the gift of life. For every recipient of a transplanted organ, there are several more denied by age or circumstances, and thousands wait on lists aware that the supply of organs is never likely to be sufficient to help them.

Faced with these difficult choices, medicine can and should look to animals as an alternative source of organs. Not as new as they seem — insulin and heart valves from pigs have been saving lives for decades — techniques of xenotransplantation nevertheless do raise real ethical and safety issues. There are some who feel instinctively that exploiting animals in this way is morally indefensible. But the majority of those, including several expert committees, who have examined the subject closely have not concluded that this constitutes a real moral objection. Animals have been raised to eat for ten thousand years in spite of the fact that *Homo sapiens* can survive without meat. To balk at raising animals in order to harvest their organs, when no alternative exists, would be irrational. Only if it could be shown that the animals suffered needlessly would an ethical issue arise.

The questions that remain are those of efficacy and safety. So far, we do not know whether animal-to-human transplants will work, and if so, how well. The scientific principles that underlie research programmes in Britain and in the US, however,

appear sound. They involve the production and breeding of transgenic pigs which express on the surface of their cells proteins derived from humans. If all works as intended, these proteins will switch off the attack which the human immune system would otherwise deploy to destroy the transplanted organ. The heart of a pig will have been given the outer appearance of a human heart, so far as the immune system is concerned, and sailing under these false colours it should be safe from a broadside which would otherwise demolish it. Laboratory experiments can be used to measure the success of this subterfuge, but the only true test will come on the operating table.

The patients chosen will have everything to gain and little to lose. But society has wider issues at stake. As we report today, viruses carried harmlessly by pigs may turn out to be harmful when transferred to man, even triggering an epidemic. Enough animal diseases have been transmitted to man to make this more than just a theoretical risk, but one that is not easy to measure. In the US, the risk has been deemed justifiable against the possible benefits and guidelines are relatively permissive. In other words, the hope of saving the lives of tens of thousands of people in need of a transplant outweighs the small risk of an animal virus infecting them and others.

In Britain, with the BSE disaster still unfolding and its human cost still uncounted, an even more stringent analysis will be needed. Tentative research has revealed a risk that pigs could carry viruses harmful to humans: that line of inquiry should be deepened. The proponents of xenotransplantation are confident that the risks are small; but so were the scientists who dismissed the dangers of BSE infecting man. Greater certainty than we have at the moment is needed before we go further.

ARMS AND IRAN

Clinton's caution is right - for now

Limited warfare is a delicate and difficult weapon for a government to unshackle, let alone to use. Washington politicians are debating whether President Clinton should launch missile attacks against targets in Iran as punishment for Iran's sponsorship of terrorists who killed 19 American servicemen at a barracks in Saudi Arabia last June. Military action, if any, would take the form of cruise missile strikes against terrorist training camps or Iranian military bases. Given that neither the exact purpose of such strikes nor the evidence justifying them have yet been clearly defined, Washington is right to pause and to play down the significance of its internal discussion.

Iran's sponsorship of terrorism across the world and the potential threat which the Tehran regime poses to the stability of a region stretching from Turkey to Turkmenistan is beyond dispute. If Iran was a state dedicated to the peaceful resolution of its disagreements with others and to eradicating terrorism, Salman Rushdie would not still be protected and in hiding. Some of the most precise allegations of terrorist sponsorship by Iran have been made in recent months by a German federal prosecutor who laid out evidence for his claim that both Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and spiritual and political Ayatollah Ali Khamenei personally approved the killing of four Kurdish activists in Berlin in 1992. Iran's intelligence minister is alleged to have ordered the murders and is wanted by the German police.

Confronting the Iranian danger has never been simple. Diplomatic attempts to nudge the Iranian political process towards "moderation" has never worked. The outside world has never mustered the cohesion

necessary to impose effective sanctions; it is by no means clear whether isolating a society and economy which has been through the sufferings of the Gulf War would yield much leverage. The "critical dialogue" conducted by the EU has delivered little except a disgraceful episode in which European governments which should have known better almost gave way to Iranian blackmail over Mr Rushdie.

Against this background, American frustration is understandable. But punitive strikes need to be publicly justified to work. The evidence of Iranian involvement needs to be plain and accessible. The 1986 American air strike against Tripoli after US servicemen died in a German disco bombing was undermined by the weakness of information which Washington displayed in public and by the fact that it was persistently disputed. Officials in Washington have underlined that the information handed over by the Saudi Government needs checking. US investigators have not yet been allowed access to suspects detained by the Saudis. Transatlantic disagreements over Iran are already bad enough; they would hardly be improved by American action launched on a half-baked case.

Military action needs a clear purpose in view. Air strikes, as the Israelis have demonstrated, can be lethally effective against chemical or nuclear facilities which cannot easily be replaced. Because terrorism relies less on sophisticated technology and plant, hitting camps may achieve lesser results. Since the Iranian Government is unlikely to be discouraged from arming and financing killers by limited strikes against its facilities, any counter-action needs targeting at the killers themselves.

RICH LINEAGE

Don't deny Ireland's heritage

The Irish character, like a Donegal tweed, may seem uniform at first but it is shot through with unexpected colour and one of the richest threads comes from the contribution of the Anglo-Irish. Since the first landfall of Norman knights almost a millennium ago the Celtic stock of the island has been leavened by outside influence. Ireland became not a colony but a cousin of England, tied by blood not bought and bound. Many of Ireland's favourite sons and not a few of her better daughters are Anglo-Irish in origin — from Jonathan Swift to W.B. Yeats, Louis MacNiece to Molly Keane. It is all the sadder then, as melancholy as a neglected garden, to witness the rude handling of the Anglo-Irish gentry at the hands of the one party in Ireland that might be expected to honour their heritage.

Henry, Earl of Mount Charles, heir to the seventh Marquess of Conyngham and master of Slane Castle is the victim of discrimination. The discrimination is none the worse for being directed at an Old Harrovian pop promoter. Lord Mount Charles has been denied the chance to stand for Fine Gael in the forthcoming elections to the Dail. His desire to stand was not the mark of a dabbling dilettante but a man serious about politics. Lord Mount Charles is no Lord Sutch. He carried Fine Gael's banner at the last general election and did notably well. He has been denied the prize that might be his, victory on the back of the Fine Gael-led government's economic suc-

cess, because his elegant face no longer fits. The new Fine Gael candidate Fergus O'Dowd has talked disabblingly of those who have "a liberal dash of telly-ho". He could do with a liberal dash of by-your-leave. It is particularly unfortunate that Lord Mount Charles should be treated so in a party led by a man who has done so much to celebrate a pluralist vision of Ireland.

John Bruton is proud to proclaim as his hero John Redmond, the constitutional nationalist who sought an accommodation with Unionist concerns before republicanism bathed Ireland in blood. Last year, speaking at the Irish War Memorial Park at Islandbridge, he invoked the "British" part of Ireland's inheritance, paid tribute to those countrymen who had worn the King's uniform in the fight against fascism and asked for an Ireland in which "all strands" would be celebrated.

Even to make that speech, fifty years after de Valera presented his condolences to the German people on the death of the Führer, required bravery. It will always be to Mr Bruton's credit. It is all the more a pity that Mr Bruton cannot keep as one of his candidates Lord Mount Charles, a distinguished sprig of a distinguished strand in Irish life. There are, at present, only two Protestants in the Irish Parliament which hopes to play a significant role in bringing peace to Ulster. A welcome from that parliament's parties to the minorities in their own midst might make it easier for others to extend a friendly hand.

Euro regulations 'beneficial to UK'

From the Director General of the British Bankers' Association and others

Sir, John Redwood suggests (article, December 13) that the UK should veto the regulations providing the legal framework for the euro if we do not get our way in other areas.

These regulations are not an imposition from Frankfurt or Brussels. London-based banks and investment houses actively sought these key provisions to ensure that the meaning of existing contracts is not put in doubt by the introduction of the euro. The regulations will be beneficial to UK interests, and to the interests of other EU states, whether or not the UK chooses to participate. Without such certainty, there is a risk of litigation over the interpretation of existing contracts, and, in the future, parties may be less willing to enter into long-term contracts in London for European currencies or the euro.

Voting the legal framework will not delay the euro timetable — the relevant provisions will be brought in for the participating countries anyway in 1998 — it simply prejudices the UK's ability to compete on equal terms.

Yours faithfully,
TIM SWEENEY,
Director General,
British Bankers' Association.
KIT FARROW
(Director General,
London Investment Banking Association),
CHRISTOPHER PEARSON
(Chief Executive, Association for
Payment Clearing Services),
Pinners Hall,
105-108 Old Broad Street, EC2,
December 13.

Policy on EMU

From Mr David Bramley

Sir, Mrs Gillian Barden (letter, December 12) is so right to point out that at the moment when the Tory party has run out of patience on EMU, the debate in France has only just begun in earnest.

The British Government's position is perfectly clear, perfectly correct and perfectly fair to Euro-sceptics and fanatics alike. It is to get the economy in shape to join — because the joining criteria are in any case good: to participate fully in setting up EMU — because important UK interests are involved; at the point of decision to make a recommendation about joining; to let everyone vote in a referendum on that recommendation.

The Tories should actually be congratulating themselves on the soundness of the Government's position, a product of Anglo-Saxon pragmatism and prudence. "Wait and see" really means that the UK can now wait for the rest of Europe to catch up.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BRAMLEY,
116 Avenue des Champs-Élysées,
75008 Paris,
December 12.

From Mr Richard C. Green
Sir, Rather than "wait-and-see" or "wait until it's too late" (letter, December 5), surely with the French mayhem increasing as the winter goes on, threatened strikes in Germany and the miracle required for Italian participation, should not the policy be "don't bother, it will never happen"?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD GREEN,
The Whittens Farms Ltd,
Lyonsall, Kington, Herefordshire,
December 6.

From Mr J. E. Humphrey
Sir, Is it not extraordinary that a Prime Minister who is good-natured, fair-minded and fearless; who has a true sense of humour; and who puts the UK well to the fore of itself, is seemingly a candidate for destruction by his own parliamentary party?

Yours faithfully,
J. E. HUMPHREY,
9 Offington Gardens,
Worthing, West Sussex,
December 12.

From Mr Brian W. Haines
Sir, I am in a quandary. I want a federal Europe, I believe in a single currency. I think we need it now.

So who do I vote for?
Yours faithfully,
BRIAN W. HAINES,
9a Sharples Hall Street, NW1,
December 9.

From Mr Alasdair Shand
Sir, Examination of the illustration of the proposed logo for the euro banknotes (December 12; letter, December 13) shows that it is not balanced, being heavily biased to the left, and will have a tendency to roll over on its back. The euro would appear to be unstable as compared to the £, whose logo clearly has a sound base.

Yours faithfully,
ALASDAIR SHAND,
Timber Hall, Cold Christmas,
Ware, Hertfordshire,
December 13.

From Mr Richard F. Webb
Sir, The 200 and 500 euro banknotes, at today's values, would be worth approximately £150 and £375 respectively. Is someone anticipating significant levels of inflation?

Yours faithfully,
R. F. WEBB,
22 Coverdale Road,
Solihull, West Midlands,
December 14.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Angling for solution on cormorants

From Major Sidney Vines

Sir, Brian Clarke's article, "Why cormorant report was shooting in the dark" (Sport, December 11; see also letters, December 9), is a clear and forceful account of the untold damage done to the sport of angling by the Angling Times article which reported what appeared to be a wholesale massacre of cormorants by anglers — and approved of it.

I have been an angler all my life (I am now over 70) and I regard the whole tenor of the Angling Times article as false. Anglers are a law-abiding body, like the British nation of which they are a part. Also like the British nation, they contain a few hoodlums. But to tar us all with the same brush is nonsense, written merely to cause sensation.

Yours faithfully,
SIDNEY VINES,
1 Willow Close,
Laversham, Salisbury, Wiltshire,
December 11.

From Mrs Brigitte Langenhagen,
MEP (European People's Party)

Sir, I fully agree that illegal, wild and uncoordinated shooting of cormorants is to be condemned, and have several times raised the issue in the European Parliament.

Since 1979, when the bird became a protected species, the situation has changed. There are now more than 600,000 cormorants in Europe which seriously jeopardise fish stocks in the seas, lakes and rivers, and the once endangered bird now itself endangers other species which are part of the ecosystem.

The European Parliament still wants the cormorant to be protected but has urged the European Commission to make a proposal to change the status of the protection. This would allow a European management plan to deal efficiently with the bird.

A common and co-ordinated European action would make the single and uncoordinated killing of cormorants superfluous and result in a balanced eco-system.

Yours etc,
BRIGITTE LANGENHAGEN,
97 Rue Belliard, B-1047 Brussels,
December 13.

From the Executive Director
of the Angling Foundation

Sir, Annex 1 of the EU Bird Protection Directive, passed in 1979, gave strong protection to 74 birds. It should have included the pygmy cormorant, an

uncommon species confined largely to southeastern Europe.

However, in a mistake which has remained uncorrected, the list included the northern European cormorant (*sinensis* subspecies), a migratory bird which did not merit its newly-acquired status as rare, vulnerable or endangered.

With the adoption of the directive in Britain, through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, all cormorants were granted protected status in this country, including the resident, numerous *carbo* subspecies and the *sinensis* form. Cormorant numbers rose to about 17,000, and, with increased commercial exploitation of inshore fish stocks, conflict with anglers became inevitable.

The impact of the error was evident, too, throughout mainland Europe, where total numbers of the *sinensis* subspecies have expanded more than tenfold. Mirroring this trend has been the build-up of widespread anger among European anglers: 10,000 of them attended a lobby of the European Parliament at Strasbourg last October.

Resolution of the present conflict necessitates an admission of error by the EU and the reversal of the relevant legislation.

Yours faithfully,
BRUNO BROUGHTON,
Executive Director,
The Angling Foundation,
National Agriculture Centre,
Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire,
December 9.

From Mr John Gudgeon

Sir, Is not the alleged problem the same as the one which pigeon fanciers claim to have with peregrine falcons, and which some sheep farmers and grousemoor proprietors claim to have with other raptors? It is called the predator-prey relationship.

More pigeons put up by fanciers, more waters opened and stocked for angling, more intensive stocking of fish, simply mean more food for predator species such as the cormorant, which will therefore thrive.

If that is so, then culling will not solve the problem. After all, you prune your plants to make them grow even more strongly. Do anglers really want "super-cormorants"?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN GUDGEON,
2 Clackstone Road,
Downham Market, Norfolk,
December 10.

War widows' pensions

From Baroness Strang,
President of the War Widows' Association of Great Britain

Sir, This association is naturally very concerned over any proposed cuts in war pensions or benefits (report, December 6). Although we are assured that no existing war pensioners will have their income reduced, we understand that the Government proposes to abolish war widows' entitlement to rent allowance. This will affect future war widows.

Rent allowance is only paid to those widows who have a dependent child and so normally affects only the youngest war widows in the country. They are often living in Service accommodation at the time of their husband's death and so have to find somewhere else to live. The allowance can make a difference to them, yet the savings to the Government would be very small. On March 31, 1996, only 747 widows were in receipt of this payment. As the maximum is £30 per week, and most receive less than half this amount, it costs the Government

in the order of £1 million.

In 1995 Parliament agreed to reinstate widows' pensions to war widows who had lost their pension through remarriage and were now again single. The estimated cost of this was given as £45 million. We understand that this was over-budgeted and that it has only cost about £35-40 million to implement. Further savings are surely unnecessary — indeed we should like to see the savings made on the reinstatement used for the benefit of war widows.

The approximately 2,300 war widows in receipt of an attributable Forces Family Pension (an occupational pension to which their husband contributed) should be allowed to keep that pension (not the DSS pension) for life — at present they lose all their pensions if they remarry or cohabit. Redressing this wrong would not involve any new money; we calculate that it would actually result in a saving to the DSS budget.

Yours,
STRANGE,
House of Lords,
December 9.

Dyslexic children

From Dr Henry Pearson

Sir, As the father of a dyslexic child I was somewhat shocked to read remarks by Alice Mahon, MP for Halifax, implying that dyslexia was a mental illness, potentially caused by being a "latchkey child" (report, "Mental illness" will strike 40% of children", December 2).

Dyslexia is a developmental disorder marked, typically, by difficulty in learning to read despite adequate intelligence and conventional teaching. Evidence exists for both genetic and environmental causes of dyslexia: it

can run in families, and it has also been related to problems arising during birth.

A valid point would be that "latchkey children" who also have the misfortune to be dyslexic are less likely to receive the family support very necessary to cope with homework that often takes longer than for others, catching up on work not completed in class and on extra homework set as part of a remedial scheme.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY PEARSON,
88 Wodeland Avenue,
Guildford, Surrey,
December 3.

Heart to hub

From Mr Victor Broadbribb

Sir, Regarding Dr Robin Weller's letter (December 11) citing St Matthew vi, 19 "... where thieves break through and steal".

Some years ago I went to put the evening collection into the vestry safe only to discover the disappearance, via the vestry room kitchen window, of collections from services held earlier in the day. It was Harvest Festival: I reckoned that at the time of the theft we were singing "All is safely gathered in ...".

Yours etc,
VICTOR BROADBRIBB
(Churchwarden),
5 Parish Piece, Holmer Green,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire,
December 11.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Exemption appeal for firearms Bill

From Mrs Sarah Cooper and others

Sir, The Firearms (Amendment) Bill is to have its second reading in the Lords on December 16. The Bill will destroy the sport of pistol shooting in this country, a sport which is one of the original 12 modern Olympic disciplines. Its proposed restrictions on .22 calibre pistol shooting will inhibit and prevent our best competitors from training to the necessary standard to represent this country in international competition.

The Bill will also mean that the highly successful national team cannot participate in higher-calibre pistol events in any international competition, including when we host the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002.

Imagine the sense of outrage if other high-profile sporting people were similarly affected: Steve Redgrave sitting on the towpath at the next Olympics or the English football team being precluded from taking part in this year's European Championship. Those who devote their lives to excellence in shooting sports have the same right as any other sportsmen or women to expect their needs to be properly considered.

The Government should exempt the small and highly defined group of competitors who make up the national squad. To suggest that these people are likely to commit an outrage such as Dunblane is highly insulting. They are the same dedicated sportsmen and women who have been hailed as heroes when bringing home numerous medals for this country.

Yours faithfully,
SARAH COOPER
(Commonwealth gold medallist),
MALCOLM COOPER
(Olympic gold medallist),
CHRIS HECTOR
(Commonwealth gold medallist),
MIKE JAY
(British and Welsh free pistol champion),
JOHN LEIGHTON-DYSON
(National Rifle Association chief pistol coach),
SHIRLEY MCINTOSH
(Commonwealth gold medallist),
SUSAN PRESTON
(British junior pistol coach),
IAN SHIRRA-GIBB
(British national coach),
c/o The National Smallbore Rifle Association,
Lord Roberts House,
Bisley Camp, Woking, Surrey,
December 13.

Hodgkin's work

From Mr David Gould

Sir, When John Ruskin accused Whistler of flinging a pot of paint in the face of the public, I doubt if he could have anticipated what might follow 100 years later.

He would have been utterly amazed to see Howard Hodgkin's work at the Hayward Gallery (review, Arts, December 10), and he would have been baffled by Richard Cork's flowery prose. The coloured reproduction of *Keith and Kathy Sachs* would have appeared to Ruskin as palette scrapings, and the daubing of a beam-ender frame would have astonished him even further.

Dare one claim that Ruskin unwittingly brought about a new dimension in painting?

Yours most sincerely,
DAVID GOULD,
Highcroft,
South Woodchester, Gloucestershire,
December 11.

From Mr William Wells

Sir, What a pity that Richard Cork in his enthusiastic review of the Howard Hodgkin retrospective should choose to illustrate it with a picture that would cause a new pupil at nursery school to retire to the corner of the room in embarrassment.

Yours faithfully,
BILL WELLS,
30 Compton Close,
Southcrest, Redditch, Worcestershire,
December 11.

Rich and poor

From Mr D. Parry-Smith

Sir, Professor P. D. J. Weitzman (letter, December 11) highlights the riches being spent by people in the UK on Christmas presents, while the poor children of Afghanistan rob graves to pay for food for their families. What is new about this? It was ever thus, and with more people, there can only be more poor.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PARRY-SMITH,
Witlesea, 10 East Field,
West Hill, Ottery St Mary, Devon,
December 11.

Seasonal spouses

From Mr Sid Sullivan

Sir, During a recent shopping expedition I chanced upon a display of Christmas cards for "wives" above which was the following inducement: "Buy any three and get a fourth free." Is this an example of goodwill to all women?

Yours festively,
SID SULLIVAN,
Ellenor Conages,
25 New Road, Brentford, Middlesex,
December 14.

OBITUARIES

EDWARD BLISHEN

Edward Blishen, author and broadcaster, died on December 13 aged 76. He was born on April 29, 1920.

An old-fashioned journeyman of Grub Street, after an apprenticeship as a schoolmaster, Edward Blishen made his living out of writing combined, once he had made his name as an author, with regular broadcasting. He wrote a number of autobiographical works as well as helping to produce various books and anthologies for children. But he will almost certainly be remembered best for the charm and enthusiasm with which he conducted the BBC Radio 4 programme, *A Good Read*.

He was already nearly 70 when he first started presenting this programme in 1989, but his selection to act as host to distinguished authors choosing their own books proved an inspired one (later, he got a right of choice, too). Never intimidated even by figures of the stature of Claire Tomalin and Roy Jenkins, he brought his own lightly worn erudition to all studio discussions and this, combined with his mellow, appealing broadcasting voice, gave the programme its distinctive flavour.

His success in the role was a just reward for all the years he had spent toiling in the bowels of Bush House, working on unshowy programmes for the BBC's World Service audience, of which the best known was probably the eclectic *Writers Club* which he presented for the African Service for 13 years.

Next to his Radio 4 broadcasting, his other main claim to fame lay in his popular series of autobiographical books — what he realistically described as "a forward-moving mosaic of sketches" about a life that was not, in fact, all that momentous. His writing, though, was colourful, with a deft touch for comic detail, and



he always managed to leave his public eagerly waiting for his next offering. Born in Barnet, north London, Edward William Blishen was educated at Queen Elizabeth Boys' Grammar School there. On leaving school he became a reporter on a weekly newspaper in Muswell Hill from 1937 to 1940, and, as a conscientious objector, spent the war years as an agricultural worker. After the war he took up teaching, first at The Hall preparatory school in Hampstead from 1946 to 1949 and for the next nine years, until he became a full-time writer, at Archway secondary modern school in Islington.

It was this experience which

set him on his writing career. His first book, *Roaring Boys* (1955), which he wrote while he was still teaching (concealing the school's name by calling it Stonehill), was set in a secondary modern school in a slum district and describes how an inexperienced young teacher gradually acquired a measure of control over his tough pupils, an assortment of insolent misfits. It contained some fine pen-portraits and brought him instant recognition as a writer of much promise and as a pundit and broadcaster on educational themes.

He was immediately propelled into a new status in which he found himself invited to lecture or speak at educational gatherings in vari-

ous parts of the world. It was, he said, as if, having knocked up a shed in the back garden, he had been invited to take part in the designing of St Paul's. It all provided rich material of which he was to make full use as a professional writer with an aptitude for acute observation and a penchant for treating serious subjects in an entertaining and sometimes slightly irreverent manner.

Blishen spent some time being what he described as a "literary oddjobman" — adapting novels for broadcasting in instalments and during the 1960s editing a number of children's encyclopaedias, miscellanies and books of poetry for children. Then, in

1969, he followed up his first highly successful novel with another book about teaching, *This Right Soft Lot*. The following year, with Leon Garfield, he wrote *The Gold Beneath the Sea*, a children's book which won the Library Association's Carnegie medal. But it was for his autobiographical themes that he became best known. In *A Cack-handed War* (1972) he wrote good-humouredly about his conscientious objection to war service and of his experiences as an agricultural worker in the fields and farms of East Anglia.

Blishen's love of literature and music had earlier cut him off from his father, a clerk in the Civil Service who did not

approve of his son becoming an intellectual: in *Sorry, Dad* (1978) Blishen made an attempt to sympathise with, even if he did not wholly understand, his parents' attitude, and in *Lizzie Fye* (1982) he wrote again about his family, this time his mother and his middle class upbringing. *A Nest of Teachers* (1980) brought him back to an educational theme, teacher training, and his next book, *Shaky Relations* (1981), for which he drew on his experiences as a lecturer and broadcaster, won him the J. R. Ackerley prize for autobiography.

Donkey Work (1983) is an account of his rise from unknown teacher to modest celebrity status as broadcaster and reviewer. His other autobiographical publications include *A Second Skin* (1984), *The Outside Contributor* (1986) and *The Disturbance Fee* (1989); in all of them he achieved a nice balance between amusing, sometimes farcical, experiences and serious reflection. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1989.

Blishen was able to conclude the last series of *A Good Read* — though he had started to alternate with another presenter — before becoming ill. It had, however, already been decided that he would not take part in the next series when it returns in January.

He was one of the dozens of sound radio broadcasting, having been regularly at the microphone — he presented *The World of Books* for the Overseas Service's *Topical Tapes* long before he came to the presenter's chair of *A Good Read* — for nearly forty years. There are a number of African writers who owe him a great debt for the encouragement he gave them through the *African Service's Writers Club*, with which he was first associated as long ago as 1959.

Edward Blishen is survived by his wife, Nancy, whom he married in 1948, and by two sons.

ERNST BAMMEL

Ernst Bammel, New Testament scholar, died on December 5 aged 73. He was born in Adenau, Germany, on January 20, 1923.

AN EMERITUS Fellow of St Edmund's College, Cambridge and Emeritus Reader in Early Christian and Jewish Studies at the university, Ernst Bammel was a scholar of profound learning. In Cambridge his angular figure seemed to translate the almost untranslatable German word *Wissenschaft*, which, while it literally these days means science, stands for the whole corpus of human knowledge. In academic discussion Bammel's thin face lit up, and he was charged with energy and determination.

The New Testament was at the heart of his work. His numerous publications also embraced rabbinics, the church fathers, the 19th-century church, and intellectual history. An historian by training, he stressed the importance of the Jewish setting of Paul and John as well as of Jesus. His approach stood out in a period when, under the influence of Rudolf Bultmann, the New Testament was widely being related to Gnostic writings and existential philosophy.

He was born the son of a scholarly pastor, Fritz Bammel, and his wife Paula in Adenau, a small town in the Eifel, the hilly region west of the Rhine between Koblenz and Bonn. He studied at the universities of Bonn, Göttingen, Tübingen and Vienna. At Bonn he took his two doctorates, one of philosophy (on 19th-century German history) and the other of theology. In the latter he was a pupil of the New Testament scholar Eberhard Stauffer, whom he followed to Erlangen University. Here Bammel was *habilitiert* — formally inaugurated into academic life — and became a lecturer.

Stauffer was a difficult man, and Bammel did not share all his views; but he did not wish to disagree publicly with a teacher to whom he owed so much, and whom he judged to be as distinguished as the better-known Bultmann.

Such problems influenced him when he successfully applied for a lectureship in Divinity at Cambridge in 1962. He already knew England, having visited Oxford and worked there, and having been for a time the S. A. Cook Bye-Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. He later became a Fellow of St Edmund's College and was appointed to a university Readership.

He was honoured in 1983 and 1990 by volumes of essays written by former pupils and other friends, and in 1992 by the award of the British Academy's Burkit Medal for Biblical Studies.

Bammel's lecture courses on the Johannine literature and on textual criticism amounted in each case to a substantial original treatise. They required corresponding attention. His audiences looked forward, perhaps unworriedly,

to the occasional Teutonicism. There was always the hope that the lecturer might mention what he for long called the "truncation of John the Baptist".

Another feature of Bammel's teaching was his stimulating graduate seminar. It took place in his crowded room, which was not so much book-lined as book-pervaded. Bammel concentrated on the sources, but also drew on his deep knowledge of earlier scholarship, with a penchant for unfashionable giants and learned radicals. His relations with colleagues were not always easy, but the pupils and fellow-workers whom he encouraged include many names now well-known in biblical study in Britain and overseas.

Among topics of his own research were the Dead Sea Scrolls (his ideas on the place in their background of the Jewish temple of Onias in Egypt were taken up, with full acknowledgement to Bammel, by Sir Godfrey Driver in his book on the scrolls); Herodian history; John the Baptist; the gospel source Q; ancient Jewish mysticism; the eschatology of Jesus and Paul; and the history of Jewish-Christian controversy.

His book *Jesu Nachfolger* is an original study of succession to Jesus in early Christianity. He published repeatedly on problems connected with the trial of Jesus, and edited a volume on this subject in honour of Professor C. F. D. Moule. With Moule he edited a book on *Jesus and the Politics of His Day*. It constitutes the fullest consideration and critique of the theory that Jesus and his followers formed a revolutionary movement. He admired his friend David Daube's work on rabbinic Judaism and Christianity, and with C. K. Barrett and W. D. Davies edited a volume in Daube's honour.

Bammel's love for his own land, its language and culture emerged not least in his hospitality. When still unmarried he would sometimes organise a *Deutscher Abend*, when hock was served and only German spoken. Later he and his wife jointly gave their guests a kindly welcome in an inimitable Anglo-German atmosphere.

In 1979 Bammel married Caroline Penrose Hammond, a distinguished patristic scholar who was also teaching in Cambridge. In 1984 he was appointed professor and head of the *Institution Judaica* at Münster University, but no post was available for Caroline, and he gave up the position and remained in Cambridge, though he inherited a house in the Rhineland. His wife's long illness and her death in 1995 were a source of great sadness to Bammel. He resolved to prepare for publication some unpublished work left behind by her, and he also offered to give the lectures that she would have given.

His own health deteriorated, and cancer developed. He died in Germany where he was being treated. He and his wife had no children.



R. C. D. PERMAN

R. C. D. Perman, Fellow of St Peter's College, Oxford, 1956-88, died on December 3 aged 75. He was born on February 17, 1921.

REG PERMAN was one of the old school who devoted the whole of his working life to lecturing, tutoring, examining and administration in the University of Oxford. A modest man, he would probably have been astonished to discover the high regard in which he was held.

Reginald Charles Dennis Perman went up to St John's College, Oxford, from Eltham College in south London with an Open Scholarship in Modern Languages in Trinity Term 1940. Most of his war service he spent with the decoding group at Bletchley. Resuming his studies in 1945, already married and a father, he took a first in French and gained a Harmsworth Senior Scholarship at Merton College. In 1948 he was made a faculty lecturer in the university as a lecturer at St Peter's Hall and Balliol College. He was awarded the Paget Toynbee Prize for work in Old French in 1949, and became a Tutorial Fellow of St Peter's in 1956.

Perman was the first of the second generation of Fellows of St Peter's since its foundation as a Permanent Private Hall in 1928, and he fulfilled the role of bridge-builder between the generations admirably. His courtesy and conscientiousness made him an ideal committee member and holder of various college offices.

He guided and developed the college's sports clubs for many years. Under his friendly stewardship the Senior Common Room, particularly

the quality of its guest-night meals and of the wines in its cellars, flourished. He fulfilled the offices of Vice-Master and Senior Tutor with distinction and was a valued source of love and wisdom for the successive Masters of the College under whom he served.

As French tutor, Perman was exacting, kind and encouraging in equal measure; he built his pupils up. He was one of a vanishing breed: though a medievalist, he had very wide literary sympathies and knowledge, and happily guided his pupils through French literature of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries in their weekly tutorials. When he retired, he was genuinely astonished, though nobody else was, at the expressions of gratitude and affection he received from pupils and ex-pupils in the three colleges he regularly taught for: St Peter's, Balliol and Corpus Christi.

As a medievalist, Perman was one of a group of distinguished medievalist scholars who worked and taught in Oxford in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, and who all contributed articles to the *Festschrift* for Professor Alfred Ewert, their mentor. He lectured memorably on the *Chanson de Roland*, the *Roman de la Rose*, and medieval farces. He was for many years the general editor of Blackwell's French Texts series. He also contributed a fine annotated selection of the poems of Verlaine in the *Clarendon* series. He was a member of the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board. He was a delegate of that body and ultimately, until as recently as 1988, the skilled chairman of its board.

Perman is survived by his wife Alma, whom he married in 1941, and by his four daughters.

SIR CHARLES SOPWITH

Sir Charles Sopwith, solicitor, died on November 15 aged 91. He was born on November 12, 1905.



CHARLES SOPWITH was an outstanding lawyer whose career, virtually all in the public service, was remarkable for its duration and diversity. The positions he held — Public Trustee, Solicitor to the Board of Inland Revenue, Deputy Secretary in the Cabinet Office, Second Counsel to the Chairman of Committees in the House of Lords — bore witness to the range of his interests.

The youngest of four children of a Tyneside shipbuilder, he was educated at South Shields High School. In the ordinary course of things he could have expected to follow his elder brother to Cambridge. A decline in his father's business, however, meant that he had to be articled as an accountant and he qualified as a chartered accountant in 1928.

The legal studies involved in the accountants' exams had aroused in him, though, an enthusiasm for the law and in 1933 he took articles as a solicitor in London with C. H. Vick, a member of a well-known legal family.

He had evidently impressed Vick because his articles were free, and that was rare in those days. He took a first class in both the Intermediate and Final examinations of the Law Society. In the latter, in 1938, he came joint top of the list of all candidates. It proved to be a vintage year for future government lawyers because joint top with him was Henry Woodhouse, who later became Legal Adviser to the Department of Transport.

When war broke out a year later Sopwith, who was pronounced unfit for military service, soon found himself drafted into the Central Office of Information, where he remained for the rest of the war. He progressed rapidly to become Assistant Director, Press Censorship in 1943. In that post he worked under one of the most celebrated lawyers of his time, Cyril Radcliffe, who later became a law lord. Like everyone else who ever had dealings with Sopwith, Radcliffe was impressed by him and suggested that he would be well suited to work as a government lawyer.

Sopwith took his advice and at the end of the war joined the Solicitor's Office of the Board of Inland Revenue, judging that department to be particularly suited to his dual qualifications as lawyer and accountant. Again, the promotions came rapidly and by 1956 he had risen as high in the office as seemed possible for him, given the relative ages of himself and the then Solicitor.

Five years later the post of Public Trustee fell vacant, and Sopwith, somewhat to his surprise, was appointed to it. Instrumental in that appointment was the then Attorney-

General, Sir Reginald Manningham-Buller, who later, as Lord Dilhorne, became Lord Chancellor. He had been briefed by Sopwith in some important Revenue cases and was another senior lawyer whom Sopwith impressed.

Sopwith could have expected to continue as Public Trustee until his retirement but in 1963 Sir Angus Fraser, the Solicitor to the Board of Inland Revenue, died suddenly and the chairman of the board, Sir Alexander Johnson, had no doubt that Sopwith was the best man to succeed him. So it was that Sopwith went back to the board as Solicitor and remained there until he reached retiring age in 1970. He was knighted in 1966.

That turned out to be far from the end of his career. Very soon he came out of retirement upon invitation to take up a temporary post in the Cabinet Office as chairman of a small committee of lawyers who were part of the team preparing the instructions for the drafting of the European Communities Bill. This was a demanding exercise and Sopwith started with the disadvantages that he had no experience of the preparation of legislation (his work in Inland Revenue had been largely in the litigation sphere) and had virtually no knowledge of the European Treaties. Nevertheless, he threw himself into the work with characteristic vigour and determination, as ever relishing a challenge, and carried it through until the Bill was enacted as the European Communities Act 1972.

By then he was 67 and might have rested on his laurels. So far from doing so, two years later he embarked

on an entirely new career as Second Counsel to the Chairman of Committees in the House of Lords. This was a new post created in order to provide legal counsel for the European Committee, a committee set up by the House to scrutinise proposals from Brussels for community legislation. Sopwith was the first holder of this committee post and stamped his authority on it from the outset, bringing to it all his formidable powers and tremendous industry. He held the position for eight years, by which time he was 77 — and even he felt he was ready for retirement.

Sopwith was a reserved man with a deep seriousness and sense of duty, and a certain toughness that matched his sturdy build. At the same time he had a well-developed sense of humour and, once one had penetrated his reserve, was a warm and congenial companion. His interests were wide but his deepest love outside his family was for music and he was for many years a director and member of the committee of management of the Royal Academy of Music. The honorary FRAM which the Academy awarded him in 1984 gave him great pleasure.

His family bonds were strong throughout his life. He made a late but notably happy marriage, though, sadly, his wife Ivy predeceased him by nearly 20 years. They had no children but he had had a profound influence on the upbringing and education of two nieces, the daughters of his sister, with whom he lived throughout the war years. He remained close to them and was a valued friend and guide to the next generation of four great-nephews.

EEC curb affects beefburgers

By Hugh Clayton

Meat traders complained yesterday that EEC protection had produced a shortage of the type of beef needed for beefburgers. They also called for a cut of at least 15p in the pound in EEC lamb prices to avert the creation of a "mountain" of surplus lamb.

Mr John Locke, director of the Bacon and Meat Manufacturers' Association, explained in London that barriers erected under EEC farm policy kept out beef from traditional suppliers.

"Manufacturers want cheap, grass-fed beef from Argentina and Australia and not grain-fed beef from the EEC," he said. There was too much expensive fat beef in the Community and too little cheap lean.

He said British companies which bought frozen meat from the rest of the EEC for making such products as sausages were to prepare a blacklist of suppliers whose meat contained frozen bodies.

Recent consignments had included pieces of plastic labels and metal staples, which could damage saws in sausage factories.

Mr Michael Silver, president of the Imported Meat Trade Association, called for a cut in EEC lamb prices and a switch in cheap Community beef sales.

ON THIS DAY

December 16, 1980

Not so long ago there was a European beef problem of a different kind: the beef needed for making beefburgers was in short supply. "Too much expensive fat beef in the Community and too little cheap lean".

Mr Silver believed that EEC lamb prices would have to be cut by between 15p and 20p in the pound next year to discourage farmers from producing a surplus.

Welsh language victory inspires other Celtic nations

By Tim Jones, Cardiff

Now that the huge caravan sites are deserted and the hills are bereft of the gaily coloured tents of summer campers, parts of Wales have returned to a resemblance of the Celtic kingdom which language idealists wish had never vanished. In the Llyn Peninsula or in

the rural hinterland of Gwynedd or Dyfed many people communicate throughout their workday in their native tongue, then pick up their children from Welsh schools before going home to listen to Welsh language radio or television programmes.

It is a remarkable tribute to linguistic tenacity, for the language has survived not only infiltration from the attractive culture of its large neighbour but also attempts in the past to legislate it out of existence.

Extremists maintain that the "English government" is still committed to a deliberate policy of killing the Welsh language, although the facts do not bear them out. In fact, successive post-war administrations have given increased aid to foster the language and now, with the battle for Welsh programmes on the fourth television channel won, it can fairly be argued that if the language dies it will be because of the apathy of the Welsh people.

The success of the fourth channel campaign has motivated supporters of minority languages in the other Celtic nations. In France, the International Committee for the Defence of the Breton Language claims that the Government is, by "hostility and trickery", flouting the right of the tongue to survive. Spoken by fewer than 500,000 people, Breton is the only living Celtic language in continental Europe.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Ronald Ferguson, Vicar, Castleisle, Consett, to be part-time Chaplain for Gateshead Healthcare and part-time Senior Assistant Curate, Holy Trinity, Washington (Durham). The Rev Peter Hunter, Assistant Curate, New Borough and Leigh St John (Wimborne St John); to be Priest-in-charge, Warmminster Christ Church (Salisbury). The Rev Oswald Jenson, Curate, Thorpe Acre w. Dishley; to be Assistant Priest, w. special responsibility for North w. South, Kibworth and Misterton (Leicester). The Rev Robert Kenway, Rector, Birmingham St George (Newtown) (Birmingham); to be Vicar, Caine and Blackland (Salisbury). The Rev Peter Langford, Vicar, Middlesbrough, St Chad; to be Rector, Eastington w. Lorton (York).

The Rev Richard More, Senior Assistant to the Bishop of Chelmsford; to be also a Non-Residential Canon of Chelmsford Cathedral (Chelmsford). The Rev Richard Mulken, Director of the Missions to Seamen (Northern Region); to be also Assistant Curate (NSM), Oulton w. Woodlesford (Ripon). The Rev Seve Oluide, formerly Anglican Chaplain to Bradford Hospitals NHS Trust (Bradford); to be Anglican Chaplain to Parkside Health NHS Trust (St Charles Hospital, Paddington Community Hospital and Princess Louise Hospital, Kensington) (London). The Rev Simon Parrett, NSM, Holy Epiphany, Muncle (Winchester); to be Chaplain's Assistant, Poole Hospital

NHS Trust (Salisbury). The Rev Andrew Pearson, Priest-in-charge, Hunslet Moor; to be Vicar of that benefice (Ripon). The Rev David Pickering, Team Vicar, Jarow Team Ministry and Information Technology Chaplain w. the Northumbrian Industrial Mission; to be Anglican Priest, Local Ecumenical Project, Newton Hall (Durham). The Rev John Richardson, Team Rector, Hugglescote w. Donington, Ellistown and Saltstone; to be Rector, Hallaton w. Horninghold and Alkington, Tugby, East Norton and Slawston (Leicester). The Rev Richard Saunders, Curate, Cranham Park (Chelmsford); to be Team Vicar, Kinson Team Ministry (Salisbury). The Rev Irene Shaw, Curate,

Holy Redeemer, Lamorbey; to be Vicar, All Saints, Belvedere (Rochester). The Rev Jonathan Sibley, Curate, Chalfont St Peter; to be Priest-in-charge, Sulhamstead Abbots and Barnister w. Uffon Nerve (Oxford). The Rev Dr Mark Stibbe, Vicar, Grenoside (Sheffield); to be Vicar, Chorleywood, St Andrew (St Albans). Canon David Tizzard, Priest-in-charge, Distington and Diocesan Urban Priority Area Link Officer and Civil Emergency Planning Officer, Churches Together in Cumbria (Carlisle); to be Team Vicar, Beamister Team Ministry (Salisbury). The Rev Jeremy Trigg, Rector, Rowley w. Skidby (York); to be Team Vicar, Wolverson Team Ministry (Oxford). The Rev John Ward, Rector, St Bride's Minch w. St David, Betws (Llandaff); to be Vicar, All Saints, Shard End (Bham).

NEWS

Epidemic fears delay pig transplants

The first organ transplants from pigs to people have been delayed because ministers fear they might transmit potentially deadly viruses.

Scientists have recently proved that pig viruses can grow in human cells, and there is concern that while these might be harmless to the animal, they could provoke a lethal epidemic among people. HIV almost certainly came from animals, and strains of flu that have killed millions of people in pandemics this century originated in pigs and birds. Page 1

Unionists rebel over fishing quotas

The Government was last night trying to head off a possible defeat in the Commons today after the Ulster Unionists warned that they would withdraw their support unless they won significant concessions on fishing quotas. Page 1

Prison condoms

The Government is allowing condoms to be issued in jails in England and Wales to prevent the spread of infection. Ann Widdecombe, the prisons minister, has admitted. Page 1

Blair alone

Tony Blair made it clear that he would be prepared to stand up for Britain's interests against France or Germany even if it meant he was in a 'minority of one' in the European Union. Page 2

Student vote

John Major is coming under strong pressure from Tory strategists to hold the general election on April 10 to prevent Labour using the student vote to win key marginal seats. Page 2

Shopping revenge

Wives are taking revenge on career-obsessed husbands by turning into compulsive shoppers and running up debts. Page 3

Army graves found

A British Army war grave containing the remains of 25 men has been unearthed near Arras in France. Tens of thousands of allied troops died in the area in the spring of 1917. Page 5

Operation challenge

The power of High Court judges to compel women to undergo surgery is to be challenged in an action by two women forced to have Caesarean sections. Page 6

A hard story to swallow

A Doberman puppy swallowed a 13in kitchen knife and has the X-rays to prove it. While urban mythology abounds with tales of Dobermanns gobbling up burglars' fingers or smaller dogs, Bailey's unprecedented feat of turning canine sword-swallower is beyond doubt, being fully documented and professionally attested. Page 3

Sunday lessons

A school with some of the worst examination results in the country opened for Sunday lessons in an attempt to improve students' performance. Page 6

Bird mystery

An urgent investigation is to be launched into a dramatic and mysterious decline in the number of oystercatchers at the Wash, one of Europe's most important wildlife sites. Page 8

Irish anger

Smouldering anti-English sentiment has ignited in the Irish Republic after an Anglo-Irish treaty failed to win selection to represent the governing Fine Gael party at the next general election. Page 8

British vote doubt

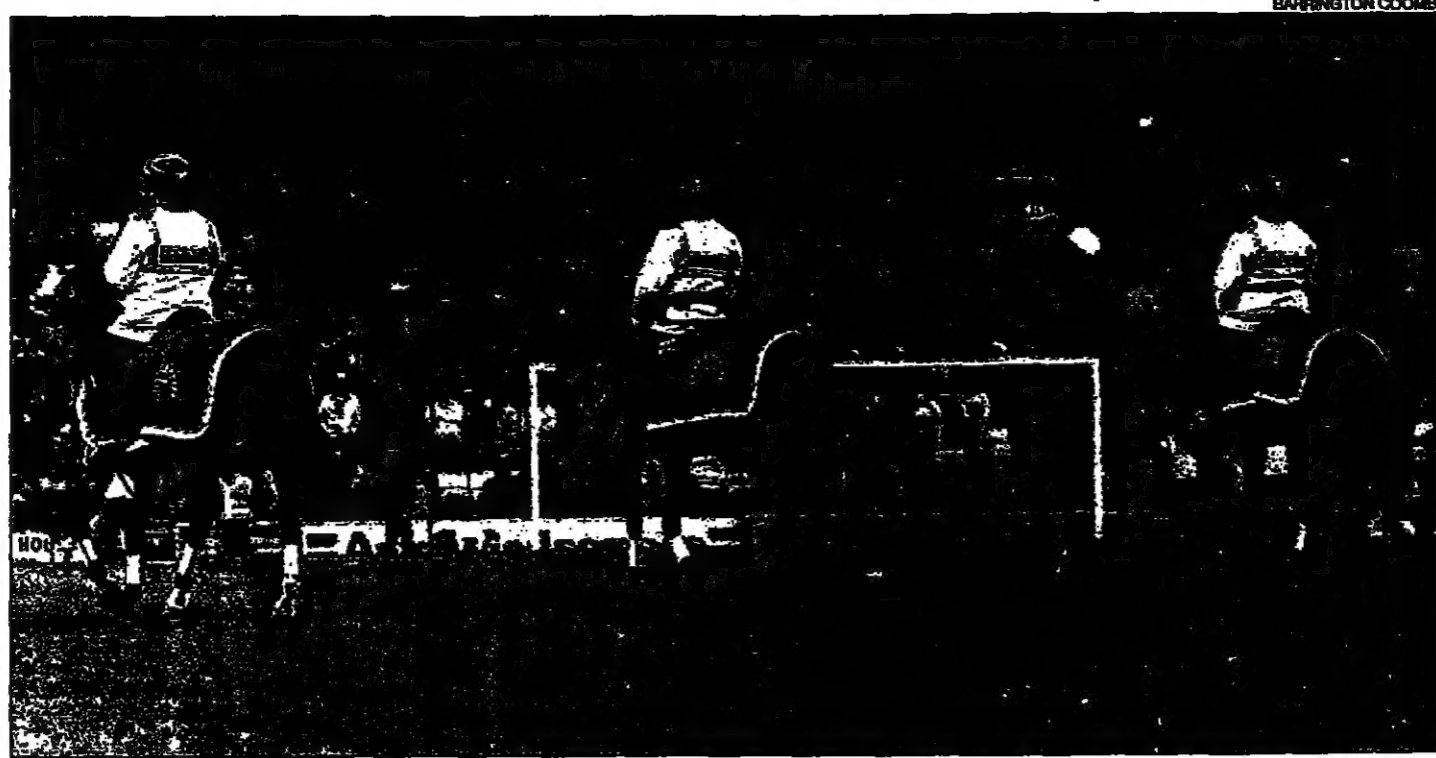
Britain could be cut out of negotiations for a new Maastricht treaty until after the general election under a scheme pressed by several European Union states on the Dutch Government, which assumes the EU presidency on January 1. Page 9

Mandela threat

Winnie Mandela is under the spotlight after the convicted murderer Jerry Richardson, one-time head of her vigilante gang, said that he had lied. Page 10

US plans strikes

The United States has made contingency plans for military strikes against Iran. Page 11



Mounted police patrol the pitch at Ashton Gate after Bristol City and Bristol Rovers fans clashed during their second division game. Page 26

BUSINESS

Aerospace merger: Boeing and McDonnell Douglas are to merge, creating the largest aerospace company in the world, in a deal worth \$13.3 billion. Page 44

Tax campaign: Business leaders are to propose radical reforms to Britain's corporate tax system in an attempt to remove what they see as a clear fiscal bias against investment. Page 44

Britain ahead: The UK economy will grow at a faster rate than all Group of Seven industrialised nations except Canada, according to the OECD. Page 44

Kenwood plea: The besieged board will today ask shareholders to be given more time to restore the fortunes of the troubled maker of domestic appliances. Page 40

ARTS

Violent denial: "On any serious list of the causes of violence, television scarcely merits a mention," Melvyn Bragg points the finger of blame firmly elsewhere. Page 16

Academic overtures: The turmoil at the Royal Academy is over; now there is merely a renewed sense of purpose and a "piddling" deficit, its managers tell Simon Tait. Page 16

Double act: Toronto hosts a financially slugging-match as two huge, dauntingly expensive new musical adaptations open in the space of a few days. Page 17

Beautifully beastly: Loud, gaudy and rich in melodrama, *Beauty and the Beast* opens in Stratford East with fine singing, smart ad-libbing, great costumes and a truly wicked bad fairy. Page 17

Grey matter: Some old people appear to remain lucid while others show clear signs of losing their faculties. Anjana Ahuja on a project to discover why. Page 12

Nigel Hawkes: Everybody knows that skates slide on ice because the pressure of the blades melts the surface layer. Except that they don't. Page 12

Nurturing space: Shopping does not always have to be a dehumanising experience. Page 13

Quietly grateful: Juliet Peck, Libby Purves and Giles Coren say what Christmas means to them. Page 14

Michael Gove: The Conservatives should never regard the growth of its social security budget with pride, but service pensions should be the exception. Page 15

Crickets: England lost the first one-day international by two wickets in Bulawayo. Page 23

Rugby Union: Wales went down 37-20 to South Africa while England mullered over a poor display against Argentina. Pages 30, 31

Football: Chelsea's hopes of getting among the championship contenders were dealt a heavy blow at Sunderland. Page 27

Athletics: John Brown, from Sheffield, who won the European championship in Charleroi, is the first British man for 21 years to collect a senior international cross-country title. Page 25

Swimming: Susan Ralph, controversially denied a place in the record books, and Mark Foster both won two gold medals for Britain in the European short-course championships in Rostock. Page 25

Skis: Austrians took the first four places in the opening downhill race of the World Cup season at Val d'Isère. Page 25

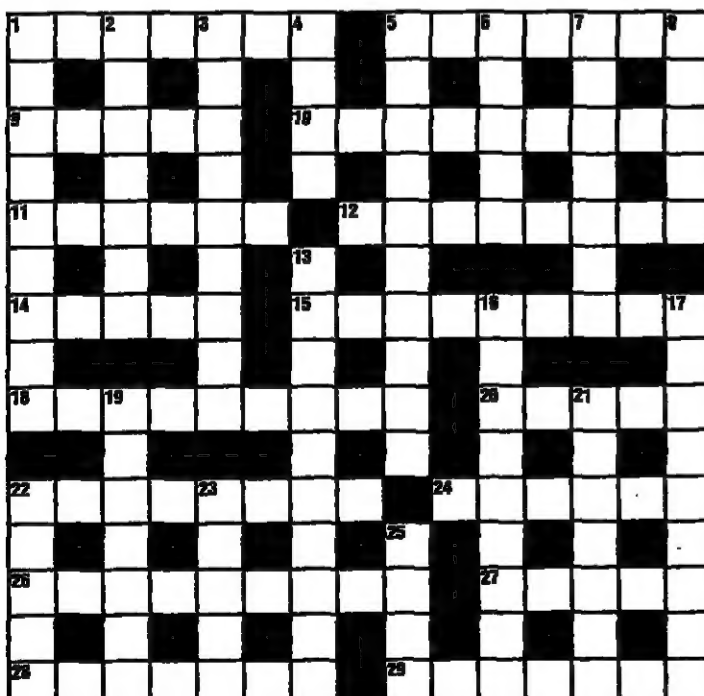
Snooker: Despite a total clearance of 145, Alain Robidoux, of Canada, was 5-3 down to London Ronnie O'Sullivan in the 17-frame final of the German Open. Page 25

IN THE TIMES

ARTS
Dartmoor inspires the opening exhibition for a revamped West Country gallery

LAW
Should charities be allowed to pursue political activities?

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,352



- ACROSS**
- Take-off makes Bohemian girl weep (7).
 - Noisy rebuke causing consternation (7).
 - In the event, his career is competitive (5).
 - Dejected, having secured nothing, we leave at once (9).
 - Headgear with diamonds that may be covering peak (6).
 - Opera's beginning very loudly! Verdi's fantastic stroke (5-5).
 - Tree outside estate's entrance — one producing resin (5).
 - Dismiss class troublemaker (9).
 - Good-for-nothing refugee finally patriotic? (9).
 - Book appears after much delay, though unfinished (5).
 - Closing date for journalists' dull column (8).
 - Make it possible to extract from churchmen a blessing (6).
- DOWN**
- Thanks to the French, not so cruel (9).
 - Weapon officer needed to restrain revolutionary (7).
 - Rumour here? (7).
 - Moor the launch originally left in centre of pool (7).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When upset, new way to display boredom (4).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Perry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically indoctrinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - When